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**Susan Flavin & Evan T. Jones, 'Glossary of commodities, weights and measures found in the sixteenth-century Bristol customs accounts' (University of Bristol, ROSE, 2009)<sup>1</sup>**

The following is a glossary of the commodities, weights and measures found in the Exchequer 'particular' customs accounts and port books for Bristol, covering the years: 1503/4, 1516/17, 1525/6, 1541/2, 1542/3, 1545/6, 1550/1, 1563/4, 1575/6, 1594/5 and 1600/1.<sup>2</sup> A shorter version of this glossary can be found in: Susan Flavin and Evan T. Jones, *Bristol's Trade with Ireland and the Continent: The Evidence of the Exchequer Customs Accounts* (Four Courts, Dublin, forthcoming 2009), pp. 943-66. The version printed below is more than twice the length of that in the printed volume. This is because it includes information on the customs valuations of different commodities over the course of the century, as well as additional details of the units-of-measure found in the accounts. It also contains notes on how various commodities were identified, as well as discussion of those areas where uncertainty remains about the meaning of terms used in the accounts. To assist future researchers, the glossary includes spelling variants of the commodities found in the customs accounts, as well as the nominative Latin versions of the commodities. The latter is relevant because most of the accounts are written in Latin.

*Notes on the values:*

Customs valuations were not given in the last two accounts examined, 1594/5 and 1600/1. Instead these accounts, being Surveyor's Accounts, contained details only of the customs paid on each commodity. Since most goods paid 'poundage' at a rate of 1s. in the £, values were estimated by the project team on the basis of the duty paid. For example, if a commodity paid 1s. in poundage, it was assumed that the customs valuation was 20s. In the vast majority of cases this approach works well, with the projected valuations being the same as the values recorded in the official Book of Rates.<sup>3</sup> There are, however, slight discrepancies in some instances, particularly when goods were listed in very small quantities and paid only a farthing or halfpenny in custom. For example, if a Customer had valued a particular item of merchandise at 8d., he would probably have taxed it at a halfpenny, since he could not have demanded 0.4d. from the merchant. Knowing only the custom paid, one might, however, suppose that the consignment had been valued at 10d. (0.5d. x 20). This can make it impossible to work out the actual value the Customer originally assigned to the commodity. Since the discrepancies are minor and the sums involved are very small, for most practical purposes these inaccuracies are not particularly important. Nevertheless, it is worth bearing in mind that the values published by the project for 1594/5 and 1600/1, in both the project volume and in the EXCEL datasets published in ROSE, may, for this reason, sometimes differ from those printed in the Book of Rates.

In the glossary, when 'earlier accounts' are specified this refers to those covering the period 1507-1558. References to 'later accounts', relate to those of 1558-1601. This is because a revised book of rates was issued on 28 May 1558, in which the customs valuations of many goods increased markedly – typically by about double.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The glossary is an output of the ESRC-funded project 'Ireland-Bristol trade in the sixteenth century' (RES-000-23-1461), 2006-8. This project was led Dr Evan Jones (University of Bristol), with the support of two co-investigators: Prof. Raymond Gillespie (Maynooth, University of Ireland) and Dr Brendan Smith (University of Bristol). Susan Flavin (University of Bristol) was the project researcher.

<sup>2</sup> The National Archives [TNA], E122/199/1, 21/2, 21/5, 21/10, 199/4, 21/15, 22/4, 24/12, 199/9, E190/1129/11, 1129/12, 1131/10, 1132/11.

<sup>3</sup> T. S. Willan (ed.), *A Tudor Book of Rates* (Manchester, 1962).

<sup>4</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. xxviii.

A

**Almonds** (Lat.: amigdalum; Text: allmondes, amigdala, amygdala) : The kernel of a drupe or stone-fruit, the produce of the almond tree, of which there are two kinds, sweet and the bitter (*Oxford English Dictionary* [OED]).

C lb/Bale

The 1507 rates book values 'allmondes the c wayte' at 13s. 4d. Almonds are found in the 1526 and 1540s accounts at this value.

The revised rates book of 1582 lists 'Almonds the *bale*' containing 112 lb at 40s. Almonds are found at this value as an export to Ireland in the 1575/6 account (4s. to 4d. per dozen lbs.) The 1594/5 account has almonds at 40s. per C (ie. pays 2s. per C custom). A bale of almonds is therefore equal to 1 C.

**Alum** (Text: alam): A whitish transparent mineral salt, used primarily in cloth dyeing and also for tawing skins, medicine and sizing paper. (OED)

Dozen or C lb.

This is found valued at 5s. per C in 1503, rising to 13s. 4d. per C in all the accounts examined prior to the rates revision of 1558, thereafter it rises to 33s. 4d. per C. This is the same value as listed in the 1582 rates book, which has 'alome the C' of 112 lb 33s. 4d.

**Anchor** (Lat.: ancora; Text: anker)

Piece

Found in the 1542/3 account as an import from both Ireland and the Continent. They are valued in the account at 5s. per piece

**Aniseed** (Text; annes, annes sede) : The seed of the anise, used in medicine, confectionary and perfumes.

Dozen (lbs)

The 1507 book of rates lists 'annes sede' but gives no value. It is found valued at both 18d. and 20d. per dozen in the 1516 account and at 16d. per dozen (13s. 4d. per C) in the 1540s. After the rates increase, the values in the accounts rise to 26s. 8d. per C or 3s. per dozen lbs. The 1582 rates book records them at 16s. 8d. per C, which is an error for 26s. 8d. (it is found at the latter value in the 1558, 1562 and 1590 books).<sup>5</sup> Aniseed is sometimes listed with cumin in the accounts, presumably because they have a similar value per weight.

**Apothecary Wares:** Sometimes found in the accounts listed as such and without any specification regarding type or content. These are found in the 1600/1 account as 'apothecary wares and other small trifles'

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<sup>5</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 4.

**Apples** (Text: appuls): Found by the barrel, which according to the 1582 rates book, contains three bushels.

Barrel

Found in the 1600/1 account, paying 2d. custom per barrel, so valued at 3s. 4d. for customs purposes. According to the 1582 rates book, a barrel contains 3 bushels. The book lists 'Appuls the barrel' at 12d. and also 'Appuls called pippins or reinets' at 3s per barrel. Reinets are dessert apples of French origin.<sup>6</sup>

**Aquavitae** (Text: aqua vyta): a generic name for various types of strong distilled alcohol.

Kilderkin/ Barrel/Tun

Found in the 1525/6 account at 20s. per barrel, 13s. 4d. per kilderkin and £10 13s. 4d. per tun. The 1582 rates book lists aquavitae at 40s. per barrel. It is found at this value in the 1594/5 account.

**Arridence**: Unidentified.

Dozen

Found in the 1594/5 account valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen.

**Argol** (Text: argall, archoll): Bitartrate of potassium, a plant acid formed as a by-product of wine-making, which when purified becomes cream of tartar. There is a difficulty with identifying this for certain as 'orchil' is often written in a similar fashion and is exactly the same value in the later accounts.

Lb

This is found in the 1594/5 account at the same value as in the rates book.

**Arrow Heads**: The head or pointed part of an arrow.

C

Found in the 1594/5 account, where a C (100?) pays an ob. custom, so valued at around 10d. per C.

**Arsenic** (Text: arsenyck): Name of one of the chemical elements, and of some of its compounds, which are violent poisons'. It was used as a poison for vermin and was also adapted for medicinal use, for example to treat skin diseases.<sup>7</sup>

It is found being exported to Ireland at 5d. per lb in 1576. It is also listed in the 1582 rates book at this value. The book confirms that a C equals 100 lbs.

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<sup>6</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> 'Arango - Artillery', *Dictionary of Traded Goods and Commodities, 1550/1820* (2007). URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58689&strquery=arsenic>, accessed 16 October 2008.

**Artisons:** Unidentified. Found by the pair as an export from Bristol to Ireland in 1563.

**Ashes, Ore:** Possibly ashes from lead ore.

Ton

These are found as an export to Ireland in 1564, valued at 3s. 4d. per ton.

**Ashes, Soap:** Ashes from burnt wood, which provided the alkaline base for soap.

Ton

The 1582 rates book lists 'Ashes called wood or sope Ashes the last containing xii barrels' at £3. Soap ashes are found in the 1563/4 account valued at 20s. per ton. These are also sometimes called 'lies' or lye ashes, such as in the 1503/4 account, which has lye ashes at 6s. 8d. per hogshead.

**Awl Blades** (Text: alblades): an awl is a small tool with a slender, cylindrical, tapering, sharp-pointed blade, with which holes may be pierced. (OED)

C (presumably pieces)

These are common in the account from the later century. They are found in the 1600/1 and 1594/5 accounts usually paying an ob. Custom per C, so valued at around 10d. or lower per C (probably 8d. as in rates book). The 1582 rates book has 'Aule blades called blades for aules the M' valued at 6s. 8d., which works out at 8d. per C. They are found at this value in 1563/4 also.

**Awl Hafts:** Handles for awles.

Dozen (pieces)

Found in the 1582 rates book at 8s. per M. They occur by the dozen (presumably pieces) in the accounts, paying a qr. or ob. custom per dozen, so approximately 5-10d. value per dozen.

## **B**

**Bacon:** Found by the flitch (see below flitch).

Found in the 1503/4 account, valued at 1s. 8d. per 'flege'.

**Balances:** A device used for weighing goods. Both gold balances and 'unce' balances are found in the 1582 rates book.

Dozen (presumably pieces), sort (4 dozen), gross.

Balances are found in the 1540s, usually valued at 1s. 8d. per dozen, and small ones at 1s. 3d. per dozen. In the 1595-5 account a dozen pairs of balances pay 8d. custom and are therefore valued at 13s. 4d.

**Balches:** Possibly belts. These are found in the 1575/6 account and are valued at 1s. (12 s. per dozen). There is also an entry in this account for ‘balches and lins’, also unidentified. Medieval Latin balcheus/balteus could be a belt for a crossbow or a military belt.

**Bale:** A package of woad, alum, almonds etc., capacity varying with the commodity.

**Balette:** Measurement usually of woad; equalling approximately half a bale.

**Bands, Coarse Cyprus:** Neck-bands, or collars for shirts. These ones are presumably made from a coarse Cyprus cloth. Dozen

They are found in 1594/5 paying 3d. per dozen custom (5s. value)

**Bands, Falling:** Unstiffened collars, which were draped over the shoulders of the doublet, or, according to the OED: ‘The development of a falling collar into a pair of strips hanging down in front, as part of a conventional dress, clerical, legal, or academical’.

Dozen

These are found in the 1594/5 account paying 2d. custom per dozen (valued at 3s. 4d. ) and in the 1600/1 account paying 1d. custom per dozen (20d. value). They are not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Barley** (Lat.: hordeum; Text: ordeum, orde): usually found by the wey.  
1 wey = 6 quarters = 48 bushels (bushel = 64 pints)

Found in the 1545/6 account at 16s. 8d. per wey. Sometimes listed with malt or beans.  
Found also in the 1575/6 account paying 4s. custom per wey. (See below notes re: malt)

**Barrel:** A cask; a measure of capacity which varies with the commodity. There are twelve barrels of herring to a last and eight barrels of wine and oil to a tun.

**Barrels, Lear:** Unidentified. They occur in the 1545/6 account, valued at 8s. 4d. per last.

**Bastard:** Sweet Spanish Wine.

**Battery** (Text: batry): Metal, or articles of metal, especially of brass or copper, wrought by hammering. (OED)

Lb

The 1507 list values ‘bartry ware at 26s. 8d. per C’. It is found in the 1516/17 and 1525/6 accounts at 40s. per C. The 1550/1 account has entries for battery at both 33s. 4d. and 40s. per lb, all of which is being exported to Ireland. The rates for battery don’t seem to increase in the revised rates books. The 1582 book lists ‘battery or kettles the C. containing v.xx x11 li’ at 40s. It is found at this value in 1575/6 and in 1594/5.

**Beads (Beds)**

Dozen (presumably lbs)

The accounts contain beads of various types. This is indicated by the fact that the 1540s accounts lists beads at values varying from 1d. to 6.5d per dozen. The 1507 book values 'bedes' at 6d. the small grosse, a lower sum and the type is not specified. This duty may even refer to strings of rosary beads. The 1582 rates book has listings for bone, box, wood and crystal beads. The accounts also contain bugle and amber beads.

**Beads, Amber** (Text: beds): Amber is a yellowish translucent fossil resin, found chiefly along the southern shores of the Baltic.

Amber beads occur in the 1575/6 account, listed as one small barrel containing 50 lb and valued at £33 6s. 8d. (ie. 13s. 4d. per lb) This is clearly an expensive bead as the most expensive listed in the 1582 rates book are crystal beads at 40s. per M

**Beads, Bugle** (Text: bugle): Tube shaped, usually black bead, used in ornamental garments. (OED)

Gross

Found in the 1600/1 account, paying 2d. custom for 12 M, valued therefore at around 3d. per M.

**Beans** (Lat.: fabarum; Text: fabar')

1 wey = 6 quarters = 48 bushels (bushel = 64 pints)

Valued in the accounts, prior to the rates revision, at 16s. 8d. per wey. Beans are often listed with malt as they share the same value. (See below malt)

**Bed Cord:** A cord for stretching the sacking of a bed. (OED)

Dozen

Valued at around 5s. per dozen in 1600/1, based on customs payments.

**Bed Tick** (Text: tiecke): A large flat quadrangular bag or case, into which feathers, hair, straw, chaff, or other substances are put to form a bed.

Piece

Found in the 1600/1 account, valued at 10s.. per piece (ie. 6d. custom)

**Beef:** Shipped by the barrel and probably salted.

Valued at 5s. per barrel prior to the rates revision. It is listed in the 1582 rates book (rates outwards) at 20s. per barrel.

**Beerer:** Possibly refers to Beer eger which is sour beer or vinegar, made from beer.

Found in the 1550/1 account valued at 40s., possibly per tun.

**Bellows:** An instrument or machine constructed to furnish a strong blast of air. (OED)

These occur in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts paying either an ob. or 1d. custom per pair. They are valued therefore at between 10d. and 20d. per pair. This perhaps relates to different sizes or types of bellows.

**Bells** (Lat. & Text: campanam):

The 1582 rates book lists hawk, morris, horse and sacring bells. Those listed below are found in the accounts.

### **Bells, Hawk**

Dozen

Valued at 1s. per dozen in the 1575/6 account.

### **Bells, Sheep**

Piece

Valued at 20d. per dozen in the 1575/6 account

### **Bells, Sparrow-Hawk**

Pair

Valued at 2d. per pair in 1575/6.

**Bells, Tassel:** Probably hanging bells on a cord or fringe.

Pair

Found in the 1575/6 account, valued at 2s. per dozen pairs.

**Benedict Laxative:** Generic term for various types of mild laxatives. (OED)

Lb

It occurs in the 1600/1 account, valued at 2s. 6d. based on custom payments. This does not occur in the 1582 rates book.

**Bibs** (Text: bibbes): A cloth placed under a child's chin, to keep the front of the dress clean, esp. at meals. A similar article worn over the breast by adults, frequently as the upper part of an apron. (OED)

Dozen

These are found in the 1575/6 account, valued at 6d. per dozen and in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts, usually paying an ob. custom per dozen, so probably at the same value (5d.-10d.)



also found in the accounts are sucking bibs and bibs described as being specifically for children.

**Biscuit** (Text: biskett): A kind of crisp dry bread more or less hard, prepared generally in thin flat cakes.

Lb

This occurs in the 1575/6 account and is valued at 20d. per lb. It is not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Bice** (Text: bise): A term applied to the pigments, blue bice and green bice, and the shades of blue or green which they yield. Willan describes it as 'a pigment which yields a dull blue colour, prepared from smalt'.<sup>8</sup> According to the *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, the blue pigment was in the nineteenth century prepared from smalt, but in the seventeenth it was a product of azurite, then known as lapis Armenius and the term green bice had been applied in the seventeenth century to malachite, but by the nineteenth it was also made from smalt by adding yellow Orpiment [Harley (1970)].<sup>9</sup>

Lb

**Bit:** Metal mouthpiece attached to a horse's bridle.

Dozen

Found in the 1594/5 account as an export to Ireland. An act in 1563 'for avoiding of dyversforreyne wares made by handye craftsmen beyonde the seas' prohibited the import of a range of manufactured goods, including bits, in an effort to protect native industry.<sup>10</sup> Bits pay 2d. custom per dozen in 1594/5 so are valued therefore at 3s. 4d.

**Blankets** (Text: coveringe, coverlettes, cadowes) Found in the transcription as they appear in the accounts, ie. caddows, blankets etc.

Blankets are specified as grey or white and there are also un- specified types. They are valued at 10s.. per piece in the later accounts.

**Blockwood** (Text: logwood): The heartwood of an American tree used in dyeing; so called from being imported in the form of logs. It is used to some extent in medicine as an astringent. (OED)

C

It is found in the 1594/5 account valued at 10s. per C, based on custom payments.

**Bole Armeniac** (Text: bolearmeic): An astringent earth used as antidote and styptic<sup>11</sup>

Lb

<sup>8</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 8.

<sup>9</sup> 'Bice - Bitter almond', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58699>, accessed 16 October 2008

<sup>10</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 9.

It is found in the 1575/6 account valued at both 2d. and 1d. ob. per lb. The rates book lists 'Bole Armoniack the C. containing v.xx xii li' at 20s. and also 'Boleus Armenus the pound' at 12d., which despite the difference in valuations, Willan states are the same thing. The Bole armeniac found in the 1575/6 account matches the value of the 'Bole Armoniack' of the rates book.

**Bolt:** A roll of woven fabric: generally of a definite length; depending on the fabric type.

**Bombas:** This may be related to bombasine, which is a twilled dress material composed of silk and worsted, cotton and worsted or worsted alone.<sup>12</sup> In the accounts however, it is found by the lb not by the yard. It may therefore be a thread made from the same material.

Lb

The 1582 book lists 'bumbazine' by the piece containing 20 yards. Bombas occurs in the 1594/5 account at 5s. per dozen lbs based on custom payments.

**Books:** In the Bristol accounts books, without exception, are found as exports to Ireland. In the first half of the century, the only books found in the accounts are 'primers'. The 1575/6 account contains two entries for books, one for primers and one for 'books for children' (pro pueris). It is not until 1594/5 and 1600/1 that a greater variety is seen, with the appearance of fable books, 'books of the School of Virtue', small books, small books for children, grammar books, horn books and also 'Catoes and Pueriles'.

**Books, Catoes and Pueriles:** Catoes refers to the classical works of Cato which were used in schools and Pueriles is Evaldus Gallus's *Pueriles confabulatiunculae*, which Gillespie suggests was probably in translation by Leonhard Culmann and was used to teach Latin to those too young for longer *Colloquies*<sup>13</sup>

**Books, for Children:** Type unspecified.

Piece

Valued at around 5d. each in 1575/6

**Books, Grammar:** There is a large variation in values for these, suggesting different types and qualities or sizes of the books.

Dozen

Found in 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts, where they occur valued at 3s. 4d. to 10s. per dozen, based on custom payments.

**Books, Horn** (Text: horne boks): A leaf of paper containing the alphabet (often with the addition of the ten digits, some elements of spelling, and the Lord's Prayer) protected by a thin plate of translucent horn, and mounted on a tablet of wood with a projecting piece for a handle.

<sup>12</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 11.

<sup>13</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 6.

## Dozen

These pay around an ob. custom per dozen in the later accounts, so valued at only around 10d.

**Books, Primers** (Text: primmers): A prayer book or devotional manual for the use of lay people but the books were also used in teaching reading; and there may have been from early times forms of them specially intended for this purpose. Printed books of this sort became common in the sixteenth century. The OED quotes a primer from c1537 that has a section containing the ABC, followed by the Pater Noster, Ave Maria, Creed, Decalogue, forms of Grace before and after meals, and certain prayers and states that smaller works containing the part for children only, (probably the 'small books for children' found in the later accounts), began to be officially published in 1545, under the title of *The A.B.C.*

## Dozen

The 1507 rates book lists 'prynted primers the dossen' at 20d. The values listed in the accounts vary from 1 to 2 s. per dozen, again, like grammar books above, suggesting different types and qualities of primers.

**Books, School of Virtue:** Francis Seager's *School of Virtue* was first published in England in the 1550s and was a didactic work for children on morals, religion and social behaviour. It was illustrated by woodcuts.<sup>14</sup>

## Dozen

Found at 20d. per dozen in 1594/5 and at 3s. 4d. per dozen in 1600/1.

**Borax** (Text: boras, borate): A white chemical powder - used as a solder by gold / silver smiths. It probably had other uses also. (OED)

## Lb

Found in the accounts at 13s. 4d. per lb as in the 1582 rates book.

**Bornby:** Red behen or sea lavender, used in medicine.<sup>15</sup>

## Lb

Found as an export to Ireland in 1564, valued at 2s. 1d. per lb. The 1582 rates book lists it at 2s. per lb.

**Bottles:** Various types are found in the accounts, see below.

**Bottles, Glass:** The 1582 rates book lists glass bottles as being covered, covered with leather and with vices, and uncovered.

<sup>14</sup> R. Gillespie, 'The Book Trade in Southern Ireland, 1590-1640' in Gerard Long (ed), *Books Beyond the Pale: Aspects of the Provincial Book Trade in Ireland Before 1850* (Dublin: Rare Books Group of the Library Association of Ireland, 1996), p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 9.

## Dozen

Found at 3s. 4d. per dozen in 1594/5.

**Bottles, Leather:** A vessel with a narrow neck for holding liquids, now usually made of glass; originally of leather. (OED)

## Dozen

Leather bottles are found in the accounts at values from 6s. 8d. to 10s.. per dozen.

**Bottles, Pewter:** A grey alloy of tin, originally with about 20 percent lead (and sometimes other elements) used chiefly for ornaments and utensils. (OED)

## Dozen

Valued at 12s. per dozen in 1576

**Bottles, Sucking:** Probably refers to a babies bottle or perhaps for an animal.

## Dozen

Valued at around 6d per dozen.

**Boultel Bewpers** (Text: beaup boulder): Boultel is a kind of cloth used for bolting or sifting flour and bewpers is probably Beaupreau in France.<sup>16</sup>

## Piece

The rates book values these at 48s. per dozen pieces. In the 1600/1 account, one piece is valued at 4s. 2d. based on custom payments, which works out around the same value as the rates book.

**Bows:** Weapon for shooting arrows or similar missiles, consisting of a strip of elastic wood or other material, bent by means of a string stretched between its two ends. (OED)

## Pair

Found in 1575/6 valued at 20s. per pair. These are often shipped in their various components, ie. bowstrings and bowstaves.

**Bowstaves:** Sticks to be made into bows. Found by the bundle, which contains 16 staves.

Found valued at 5s. per bundle in 1550/1 account. These are listed at same value in the 1582 rates book which says that a bundle contains xv1 staves. This confirms that bowstaves are one of the items whose value remained unchanged after the 1558 rates rise.<sup>17</sup>  
The 1582 book values 'bowstaves the bundle containging xvi staves' 5s.

<sup>16</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 9.

<sup>17</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. xxviii.

**Bowstrings:** Found by the gross, presumably pieces.

Found in the 1525/6 account, valued at 2s. per gross and in the 1575/6 account at 3s. per gross.

## **Boxes**

Dozen

Boxes of unspecified variety are found in the 1594/5 account valued at around 20d. per dozen, based on custom payments.

## **Boxes, Black**

Dozen

Valued in the 1600/1 account at around 10d. per dozen.

## **Boxes, Nest**

The OED has two definitions; a box containing similar boxes of graduated sizes packed together and also a box provided for a bird, etc., to make its nest in. The nest of boxes in the accounts are likely to be the former as the latter is a more recent term and it is also common to find other items by the nest in the accounts, such as tables.

Found in 1600/1 paying a qr. custom per nest, so valued at or less than 5d. each. The 1582 book lists 'Nest boxes the gross' at 6s. 8d. These have been entered in the database as 2 nest of boxes or 2 nests of painted boxes as that is how they appear in the accounts as opposed to being called 'nest boxes' as in the rates book.

## **Boxes, Painted**

Piece/Nest

Value varies, found in 1575/6 at 8d. and 10d. per piece. These are also found by the nest and pay an ob. custom per nest in 1600/1.

**Box-Staves** (Text: bokk staves): Lengths of wood used to make a box. Presumably the price varied according to size as those listed in the accounts are of varying values. Not listed in the 1582 rates book.

## **C**

Presumably price varied according to size as those listed in the accounts are valued at both 12s. and 40s. per C. Not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Bracelet** (Text: braslets): Could refer to an ornamental ring or band worn on the arm or wrist or also a hand-cuff for the wrist. It occurs being shipped by the dicker which probably refers

to ten bracelets. There is an example of necklaces being shipped by the dicker in Zupko's dictionary of weights and measures.<sup>18</sup>

Dicker

**Brasers:** This could be a type of brazier, a large flat pan or tray for holding burning charcoal, etc. but the value in 1563, at 15d. per dozen seems too low for this.

**Brass, Broken:** Valued by the lb.

Valued at 1d. per lb in the 1540s accounts.

**Brushes, Heath** (Text: brushes, bruches): Brushes made of something like heather. The term 'heath' according the OED was applied quite vaguely.

Dozen

Listed in the 1582 rates book at 18d. per dozen and found in the later accounts paying 1d. custom per dozen, so probably at the same value. The rates book also lists fine heath brushes at 3s. 4d. per dozen.

**Brushes, Rubbing:** A hard brush used for rubbing. There are two sorts listed in the 1582 rates book, 'heare' and 'heath'.<sup>19</sup> Found described simply as rubbing brushes in the 1594/5 account.

They pay an ob. custom per dozen.

**Brushes, Small:** Possibly of a finer quality than the coarse heath brushes as they are more expensive.

Dozen

These are found in the 1575/6 account valued at 4s. per dozen.

**Buckles, Unspecified:**

Gross

Valued at 3s. 4d. per gross in 1575/6 and found in 1600/1 paying 1d. custom per gross (value around 20d.). This suggests that different types were sometimes listed in the accounts simply as 'buckles'

**Buckles, Boot**

Gross

Valued at 20d. per gross in 1575/6.

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<sup>18</sup> R.E. Zupko, *A Dictionary of English Weights and Measures from Anglo-Saxon Times to the Nineteenth Century* (Madison, 1968) p. 107.

<sup>19</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 11.

**Buckles, Girth:** A belt or band of leather or cloth, placed round the body of a horse or other beast of burden and drawn tight, so as to secure a saddle, pack, etc. upon its back.

Gross

These are valued at 20d. per gross in 1575/6. These are found paying varying amounts of custom in the 1600/1 account, suggesting different types, probably depending on the type and size of girth.

**Burden:** A load, a varying measure of quantity.

**Buskin:** Knee or calf length boot made of leather or cloth. The accounts also list Spanish Bushkins.

Pair

Found in the 1550/1 account at 2s. per pair for buskins described as Spanish. Buskins of an unspecified type are valued at 20d. per pair. These are presumably cloth and not leather.

**Butt:** Measure of wine, fish etc., equal to a pipe.

**Butter** (Text: buttir)

Barrel

Found at 10s. per barrel in 1525/6. It is listed at 30s. per barrel in the 1582 rates book. There is one example of butter in the later account, in 1600/1, but as it is allowed for provision no value is available.

### **Buttons, Unspecified**

Gross

Valued at 2s. per gross in the 1540s.

### **Buttons, Brass**

Gross

Valued at 20s. per gross in 1575/6.

### **Buttons, Glass**

Gross

Valued at 4s. per gross in 1575/6.

### **Buttons, Hair**

### Gross

Six gross of these pay just 1d. custom in the 1600/1 account, so they have a very low value.

### **Buttons, Pewter**

#### Gross

Found in the 1594/5 account, pays an ob. custom per gross.

### **Buttons, Scottish**

#### Gross

Found in the 1594/5 account, pays 1d. custom per gross.

### **Buttons, Shell**

#### Gross

Found in the 1594/5 account, pays an ob. custom per gross.

### **Buttons, Silk**

#### Gross

Valued at 10s. per gross in 1575/6. This is presumably a great gross containing 24 small gross based on the value, which is the same as the 1582 rates book.

### **Buttons, Steel**

#### Gross

Valued at 13s. 4d. per gross in 1575/6. The 1582 rates book values buttons of 'steel, copper, tin or latton for jerkins the groce' at 13s. 4d.

### **Buttons, Thread**

#### Gross

Found at 1d. per dozen in 1563/4 and at 2s. 6d. per gross in 1575/6. In the 1600/1 account, thread buttons are found paying a qr., an ob. and 1d. custom, suggesting different types, probably depending on the quality of thread used. The 1582 rates book just lists 'buttons of thread the great gross containing xxiiii small gross' at 2s. 6d. Great grosses are found in this value in the 1600/1 account.



C

**C** (Lat.: centum, centenarium):

**(a)** a hundredweight; according to Carus-Wilson, when reckoning “great wares” ie. woad, alum etc., C equals 112 lbs and when reckoning “subtle wares”, ie. saffron, it equals 100 lbs.

**(b)** C can also mean a ‘long hundred’ of 120 pieces, for example with fish and sheep skins or a hundred of 100 ells when looking at certain cloths.

In practice it is often possible to work out how many pieces or lbs to the C for various commodities, based on a comparative study of values over the course of the century.

**Cable & Ropes:** Presumably traded in varying thickness and lengths. The 1582 book lists both tarred and un-tarred varieties by the C, containing 112 lb.

Found on one occasion in the 1540s, valued at £2 18s.

**Caddow** (Text: cade, cadowe, coverlette, coveringe): Shipped in bundles and occurring only in the later century from Ireland, these are a type of rough covering or blanket. They are the same or similar to ‘coveringes’ and ‘coverlettes’ and are found at the same value.

Piece

**Cake:** Mass or concretion of any solidified or compressed substance in a flattened form, as a cake of soap, wax, etc. (OED). Rosin is found by the cake in the accounts.

**Calamine:** Zinc ore used in making brass alloy.

Lb

Found in the 1525/6 account at 5d. per lb.

**Calx** (calce): Term of the alchemists and early chemists for a powder or friable substance produced by thoroughly burning or roasting (‘calcining’) a mineral or metal, so as to consume or drive off all its volatile parts, as lime is burned in a kiln. (OED)

Last/ton

It is found in 1503/4 at 2s. 6d. per ton and in 1575/6 at 3s. per last. The 1575/6 account also lists calx vive at 2s. per ton.

**Calx Vive:** Quick-lime (OED)

Ton

The 1575/6 account also lists calx vive at 2s. per ton.

**Camphor** (Text: camphere): A whitish translucent crystalline volatile substance, belonging chemically to the vegetable oils, and having a bitter aromatic taste and a strong characteristic smell: used in pharmacy, and formerly reputed as an aphrodisiac.

Lb

Found at 3s. 4d. in the 1516/17 account. The 1582 rates book lists 'campher the pound' at 8s.

**Camphor Wood:** 'Camphor is prepared by distillation and sublimation from *Camphora officinarum* (*Laurus Camphora*), a tree indigenous to Java, Sumatra, Japan, etc., and from other lauraceous trees'. (OED) This is most likely to be unprocessed camphor.

C

Camphor wood is not listed in the 1582 rates book but occurs in the 1600/1 account, valued at 33s. 4d. per C. It is much less expensive than camphor, as listed in the book, most likely because it is unprocessed.

**Candarn, Bomy:** Unidentified.

C

Found in the 1540s valued at 8d. per C. (lbs?)

**Candles, Searing:** Unidentified.

Lb

Valued at around 6s. 8d. per dozen lbs in the 1600/1 account. These are not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Candles, Wax:**

Dozen

These are valued at 10s. per dozen in 1594/5 based on custom payments.

**Candle Wicks:**

Dozen (lbs)/Pack/C

Found in the 1600/1 account, paying 1d. custom per dozen lbs, so valued at or around 20d. The 1582 book lists candle wicks by the pack containing 30 C and by the C containing 112 lbs at 13s. 6s. 8d. and 13s. 4d. respectively. This may be an error as it would mean packs weighing 3360 lb, or a ton and a half, which seems very heavy for a pack of candlewicks.

**Candlesticks:** Both pewter and brass types occur in the accounts.

Piece

The 1582 rates book lists candlesticks small and great by the dozen, at 3s. 4d. and 10s. respectively. Prices vary in the accounts for unspecified types of candlesticks, they are for example 12s. per dozen in 1575/6. This may be a pewter candlestick as these are found at that value in the same account.

**Canes:** There are a number of possibilities for the meaning of this. It could be actual cane stems. The term 'cane' however was also used for darts or lances made from cane (OED). The 1582 book, lists 'canes of wood' valued at 10s. for a 'shock' of sixty pieces, which Willan suggests are wooden drinking vessels. Interestingly, in the 1550 account, there is also a listing for 'Caens' so perhaps they could also be 'caen stones' which were building stones from Caen in Normandy.

Canes in the accounts are recorded at 5d. per C in the 1540s and at 18d. per C in 1550.

**Cannells and Tapes:** Most likely from *Canel*: 'A pipe or tube; a tap for a cask' (OED). See below 'Tapes and Cannells'.

**Canikin** (Text: canykine): Small drinking vessels.

Valued at 10s.. in 1594/5. Quantity unknown.

**Capers:** Shrub (*Capparis spinosa*) abundant on walls and rocky places in the South of Europe. The flower-buds are gathered for pickling. (OED)

C

Found in the 1545/6 account, valued at 10s. per C.

**Caps** (Lat.: pilium, pillius; Text: pils', piliors): 'Pils' occur frequently in the accounts. The fact that they occur described as 'pro-noctibus' and 'pro pueris', just as caps do, and at the same value, suggests that they are the same thing.

**Cap-Cases:** Travelling-case, bag, or wallet.

Piece

Found in the 1594/5 account, valued at around 20d. per piece.

**Cap-Case Locks:** Locks for the above.

Dozen

These are found at a value of around 20d. per dozen in 1595.

**Cap-Hooks:** Unidentified.

**Caps, Monmouth:** A kind of round knitted woollen cap, which was often worn by soldiers and sailors.

Dozen

Valued at 10s. per dozen in 1600/1.

Caps, Night:

**Dozen**

Found in the 1540s valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen for unspecified types, and at 4s. for cloth, 5s. for woollen, 16s. for velvet or satin. The 1582 book lists nightcaps by the dozen. Prices similarly vary according to the material: 4s. for linen, 10s. for woollen, 30s. for velvet.

**Caps, Velvet:****Piece**

Valued at 5s. each in 1575/6

**Cards, Hand:** These may be playing cards.

**Dozen**

Found in the 1594/5 account at around 10d. per dozen

**Carpeting:** Found by the yard. It is probably material for carpets or a carpet-like covering.

**Yard**

Found in the 1600/1 account, where 4 yards pays 2d. custom, and so is valued at around 3s. 4d.

**Case:** Measurement for glass.

**Cashe:** Same as a chest (of sugar).

**Cassia Fistula:** A laxative derived from ‘a wide variety of trees that produce senna leaves and cassia pods’.<sup>20</sup>

Dozen (presumably lbs)

It is found in the 1525/6 account valued at £3 per C.

**Cast Mj llions:** Unidentified. An Irish export in 1563/4.

Unit unknown

Occurs in the 1563 account, valued at 6s. 8d.

**Cathurhisin :** Unidentified.

**Dozen**

Found in the 1575/6 account, valued at 12d. per dozen.

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<sup>20</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 15.

**Cauls** (Text: cales): A kind of close-fitting cap, worn by women: a net for the hair; a netted cap or head-dress, often richly ornamented. (OED)

**Cauls, for Children** (Text: cales): A childrens version of the caul.

**Cauldrons of Brass** (Text: cawdrone de bras): Large kettle or boiler.

Piece

Valued at 5s. per piece in the 1540s

**Ceruse** (Text: serry, seurfets): White lead used in medicine and ointment.<sup>21</sup>

Lb

Listed as 'seurfets' in 1550, when it is valued at 1d. per lb. The 1582 rates book lists it at 2d. per lb. It occurs in the 1575/6 account at this value.

**Chalk:** A white soft earthy limestone, burned for lime, and prepared for writing or marking on blackboards or other dark surfaces.

C

This occurs in the 1594/5 account, valued at around 20d. per C. It not listed in 1582 book.

**Chappines, for womens slippers of gilt and leather:** Unidentified.

Pair

Found in 1595, valued at around 5d. ob. per pair based on custom payments.

**Check:** The meaning of this is uncertain, as the only other known 'Check' is Irish cloth. This commodity however is always seen as an export to Ireland. It could perhaps be a type of woollen thread or perhaps refers to 'chack' which is the wheat ear and is sometimes recorded as check. (OED)

Lb

It occurs in the 1563 account at 12d. per lb.

**Cheese** (Lat.: caseus; Text: cas', casuor'):<sup>22</sup>

Pipe/wey/hogshead

Valued at 33s. 4d. for 2 pipes and a hogshead in the 1516/17 account.

<sup>21</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 52.

<sup>22</sup> Probably an error for *caseorum*.

**Chest** (Text: cist): Found by the nest, which is three pieces and by the piece at varying prices, suggesting differing quality or sizes, although the rates book for 1582 gives just one value of 13s. 4d. per nest.

**Chest:** Variable measurement of sugar. In the pre-1558 accounts a chest equals 120 lbs and later the accounts specify that a chest contains 3C.

**Chestone:** A species of plum (OED). Found by the 'modul' which is an unknown unit of measurement.

Modul (?)

Valued at 5d. per *modul* in 1516.

**Chisels:** Hand tool used to cut or shape wood, metal or stone.

Dozen

Found at 18d. per dozen in 1576.

**Cider:** (Text: sider) Beverage made from the juice of apples expressed and fermented.

Tun

Found in the 1594/5 account at a value of 20s. per tun, based on poundage.

**Cinnamon** (Lat.: cinnamum; Text: cannel or cynamon): The inner bark of an East Indian tree, dried in the sun, in rolls or 'quills', and used as a spice (OED)

Lb

This is a common entry throughout all the accounts. In the accounts prior to 1558, this is valued at 2s. 6d. per lb. It is found in 1563/4 at 4s.. per lb. The 1582 rates book lists 'Sinamon the c. containing v.xx li at £20' and also at 4s. per lb. It is found in the accounts at these values.

**Cloth:** See below for full cloth glossary.

**Clout:** A piece of cloth containing a certain number of pins or needles.

**Cloves:** Dried flower-bud of *Caryophyllus aromaticus*, used as a pungent aromatic spice. Often listed with ginger and mace, as they are spices of the same value.

Lb

The 1507 book values cloves at £12 10s. the 'c wyte', which would work out at c. 2s. 3d. per lb.

Cloves are found in the accounts from 1516 to 1551 at 2s. 6d. per lb.

They are listed at 5 s. per lb and at £25 per C (120 lbs.) in 1582. They are found at £25 per C in 1575/6, but a cwt here seems to be less than 120 lbs. as 120lbs. is valued at 30s.

They are found at both 3s. 4d. and 5s. per lb in 1594/5 and at 5s per lb in 1600/1, based on customs payments. Cloves are often listed with ginger and mace, because they are all spices of the same value.

**Coal** (Text: carbon', coales): Carbonum can refer to charcoal as well as mineral coal. Since Bristol was a producer of mineral coal in this period, it seems likely that imported carbon refers to charcoal. The 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts list coal (coales) being exported from Bristol. This is probably the same as the 'smith coal' which is listed in the 1563/4 and 1575/6 accounts at the same value.

Wey or Last (4 weys = 1 last)

Valued at 3s. 4d. per wey in the accounts from the first half of the century.  
The 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts list coal (coales) being exported from Bristol. This coal is valued at 6s. 8d. per wey.

**Coffers:** (Text: cofers) A box or chest in which money or valuables are kept.

Nest

Found in the 1550/1 account at 6s. 8d. per nest. They are also listed in the 1582 book at this value. The rates book lists various types; cofers with iron bars, plain cofers, cofers covered with guilt leather, painted cofers and cofers covered in velvet

**Coifs, Velvet:** Close-fitting cap.

Piece

Found in the 1540s at 2s. 6d. per piece.

**Combs** (Lat.: pecten; Text: pect'):

Dozen

Combs are valued in the earlier accounts from 2d to 6d. per dozen. The 1582 book gives the values of various types of combs. The accounts have bone combs, halfpenny and penny combs, old combs, wooden combs (most common) and ivory combs (lb).

**Comb-Cases:** Case to keep a combs in.

Gross

Valued at 2s. 6d. per gross in 1516/17

**Comfits** (confets, comfickes): Sweetmeat made of fruit, root, etc., preserved with sugar.

Lb

Comfits of an unspecified type are found in the 1575/6 and 1594/5 accounts at 12d. per lb. They are listed in the 1582 rates book at this value.

### **Comfits, Spiced**

Lb

Found in the 1575/6 account, valued at 2s. 6d. per lb.

### **Comfits, Sugar**

C (lb)

Found in the 1550/1 account, valued at 10s. per C.

**Conserves:** Medicinal or confectionary preparation of some part of a plant (as the flowers, leaves, roots, fruit) preserved with sugar.

C (presumably 112 or 120lbs.)

Found in the 1540s at 20s. per C

**Copperas:** Most commonly applied to *green* copperas, the proto-sulphate of iron or ferrous sulphate, also called *green vitriol*, used in dyeing, tanning, and making ink. (OED)

Lb

The 1582 book lists Copperas white at 4d. per lb and Copperas green at 10s.. per C

It is found in the 1594/5 account paying a qr. custom per lb.

**Coral** (corall): Relates to *red coral*, an arborescent species, found in the Red Sea and Mediterranean, prized from times of antiquity for ornamental purposes, and often classed among precious stones. (OED) Found by the 'mast' in the rates book.

Mast

Red or white

Listed in the 1582 book at 20s. per mast

This is found in the 1591/2 account, listed with an unknown unit of measurement-value unavailable.

**Cord:** A widely applied name which could refer to the ropes of a ship, the string of a bow, etc. It was also applied to strands of wire twisted or woven together.

C

Found at 10s. per c in 1503/4.

**Cord, Purse:** Possibly a purse made from a ribbed fabric or perhaps cord used to tie a purse.

Dozen (yards or pieces?)

Found in the 1540s at 8d. per dozen.



**Coriander** (colliand): This presumably refers to coriander seeds.

Lb

Found in the 1575/6 accounts, valued at 1s. per lb

**Cork** (corc): *Corc nigri* is presumably black cork. Also recorded in the accounts are red and white *corc*. The OED defines cork as a purple or red dye-stuff obtained from certain lichens growing on rocks in Scotland and the north of England. It notes the 1483 statute of 1 Ric. III cap.8 which refers to the use of orchil or cork called 'Jarecork' for dyeing. Also found in the OED under litmus (a blue colouring matter, obtained from various lichens) is a reference to 'Lytmos otherwise called white Corke' from 1518.<sup>23</sup>

Dozen

The 1507 book talks of cork by the bundle or C but does not give a value.

The 1503/4 account has entries for *corc nigri*. This black cork is valued by the dozen at 1s. 8d. per dozen. The account also has entries for red cork and white cork at 1s. per stone and at 3s. 4d. per c, respectively. The 1516/17 account also lists these varieties of 'corc' at the same values. The 1525/6 account has an entry of 'cers for botts' which has been translated as cork for bottles, although this may be a mistranslation. This is valued at the more expensive price of 4s. 2d. per dozen. There is one entry in the 1540s accounts (1541) for cork at 1s. 8d. per dozen and none again in the accounts until 1594/5 where it is found at 6s. 8d. per C, which makes sense as its double the figure found in the earlier accounts.

The 1582 book lists cork for dyers sold by the barrel at 5s. per barrel and also shoemakers cork at 4s. per dozen, which doesn't fit with any of the cork found in the accounts in terms of value or unit of measurement.

**Cotton Wool:** Cotton in its raw and woolly state, as gathered from the bolls of the plant; raw cotton.

C

Found in the 1563/4 and 1575/6 accounts, valued at £3 6s. 8d. per C. The 1582 rates book lists it at 8d. per sack as an export

**Counters:** A 'nest' of counters is presumably 3 counting tables.

Nest

They are found in the 1550/1 account valued at 20s. per nest. These are found in the 1582 rates book at 26s. 8d. per nest of three.

**Counters, Laten, White and Yellow:** Those listed by the lb, are the counters used on a counting table.

Lb

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<sup>23</sup> Many thanks to Professor Wendy Childs (Leeds) for drawing our attention to this definition for cork.

Three varieties are found in the 1575/6 account, latten, white and yellow. The latten and yellow counters are valued at 10d. per lb and the white are slightly less at 6.66d. per lb. The 1582 rates book has counters of latten the lb at 12d.

**Coveringe/Coverlette:** See *Caddow* above.

**Crab-Locks:** A crab can be a ‘portable machine for raising weights, etc., consisting of a frame with a horizontal barrel on which a chain or rope is wound by means of handles and gearing. (OED) Therefore a crablock may be a device used to secure the machine etc.

Dozen

These are quite common in the accounts. They are found in the 1540s at 1s. 6d. per dozen and in 1563/4 at 3s. 4d. per dozen and they also turn up in 1594/5 and 1600/1 paying 1d. custom per dozen and so valued at or less than 20d. per dozen. Presumably value varied depending on size etc.

**Crewel** (Text: *cruell*): A worsted yarn.

Lb

Common in the accounts of the later century, as are objects made from it.

The 1582 book lists crewel at 16s. 8d. per dozen lb. It is found at a considerably higher value in 1575/6 at 5s. per lb, along with red crewel at 20d. per lb. Crewel occurs in the 1600/1 account paying 12d. custom per dozen lbs, so around 20s. value. Cadiz Crewel is found in this account also valued at around 5s. per dozen (?) pieces. The 1594/5 account has entries for French Crewel paying various amounts of custom which makes it difficult to establish the value.

**Crewel Fringe** (Text: *frenge*): Fringe is; ‘an ornamental bordering, consisting of a narrow band to which are attached threads of silk, cotton, etc., either loose or formed into tassels, twists, etc.’ (OED).

Lb

It is found at 4d. per lb in the 1575/6 account, and occurs paying 1d. custom per lb in 1600/1, so is probably valued slightly higher.

**Cribb:** ‘A Load of Glass is two Kribbs; a Krib is 100 or 150 Foot of cut Glass’. (OED)

**Crossbow Thread** (Text: *crossbowtird*, *crossbowthred*): thread or twine used on a crossbow.

Lb

Valued at 3d. per lb in the 1540s and at 5d. per lb in 1563/4 and 1575/6

1582 book lists ‘crowbowe thred’ at 4d. per lb. The 1600/1 account has an entry for crossbow twine also, which is valued at around 4d. ob. per dozen, which means that it is probably the same thing as the thread.

**Cruses, Stone** (covered/uncovered): Small earthen vessel for liquids; a pot, jar, or bottle; also a drinking vessel.

Dozen

Valued at around 7d. ob. in 1594/5 for uncovered cruses. In 1575/6 covered stone cruses are valued at twice that amount (14 d. per dozen).

**Cumin** (Text: comyn): See cumin seed below.

Bale/dozen

Dozen

Found in the 1600/1 account. These are not listed in the rates book. They are valued at only around 5d. or less per dozen, based on customs payments.

**Cups, Earthen:** Small open vessel for liquids, which is made of clay.

Dozen

Found in the 1600/1 account. These are not listed in the rates book. They are valued at only around 5d. or less per dozen, based on customs payments.

**Cups Mead:** Mead is an alcoholic liquor made by fermenting a mixture of honey and water. (OED)

Dozen

These occur in the 1594/5 account paying an ob. custom per dozen, so valued at or less than 10d.

**Cups, Wooden** (Text: cupes): A small open vessel for liquids, made of wood.

Dozen

Wooden cups are probably valued at twice as much as earthen cups based on customs payments, around 10d. per dozen in 1600/1 and 1594/5

**Currants** (Text: currands): Raisin or dried fruit prepared from a dwarf seedless variety of grape, grown in the Levant.

Lb

These are found in the 1575/6 account valued at 4d. per lb. Currants are listed in the 1582 book at 30s. per C. They are found in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts at this value.

**Cushions:** Case of cloth, silk, etc. stuffed with soft material, used to give support to the body in sitting, reclining, or kneeling. (OED)

Piece

Found in the 1503/4 account, valued at 10s. per dozen pieces.

**Cute:** New wine boiled down to a certain thickness and sweetened (OED)

Ton

This is found as an import to Bristol (from Ireland) in 1563. It is valued at £6 per ton/tun.

**Cutts:** They are almost definitely small knives; *cutts* probably being a latin abbreviation for cultellus.

Gross

These are a very common entry in the accounts, particularly in the first half of the sixteenth century. Cutts are valued at 3s. 4d. per gross in the first half of the century. They are valued at 5s. per gross in 1563/4 and in 1575/6. The most telling evidence that shows them to be knives is in the 1594/5 account which shows cutts (ob.) or halfpenny cutts at 5s. per gross and cutts (1d.) or penny cutts at 10s. per gross. In the case of the half penny cutts, when the account was cross-examined against the customer account for the same entry, the same object was described as a knife and not a cutt. It is most likely then that cutt is specifically a 'half penny knife', a small penknife. The 1582 rates book values 'knives called pen knives' at 10s. the gross, which must be the penny variety. Further evidence to support this translation is found in the 1575/6 account, where there is an entry for 'cutler cutts' also at 5s per gross.<sup>24</sup>

**Cuttlebones:** The internal shell of the cuttle-fish, used in medicine as an antacid and absorbent.

C

Found in the 1575/6 account at 1s. per C, found in the 1582 rates book at the higher value of 13s. 4d per M

## **D**

**Daggers:** Various types found in the rates book including; coarse daggers, fine and bone daggers for children and black daggers with velvet sheaths.

Dozen

Found in 1550/1 account, valued at 6s. 8d. per dozen.

**Dates** (Text: dats,dactyl): Fruit of the date-palm, presumably exported dried.

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<sup>24</sup> TNA E190/1129/12 f05v.

**C (120 lbs)**

Found in the 1540s valued at 13s. 4d. per C. The 1582 rates book lists them at 40s. per C and states that there are 120 lbs. in a C.

**Dimidium:** (Text: Di') Half.

**Dials:** Type unspecified in the accounts.

**Dozen**

Found in the 1594/5 account, type unspecified. These pay 1d. custom per dozen. The 1582 rates book lists 'dialls of wood' at 12d. per dozen and also 'dialls of bone' at 2s. 6d. per dozen.

**Diaper Cloth:** Textile of linen fabric woven with a small and simple pattern, formed by the different directions of the thread and consisting of lines crossing diamond-wise, with the spaces variously filled up by parallel lines, a central leaf or dot, etc. (OED)

Found in the 1594/5 account, where 11 pieces pay 2s. 1d. custom, valued at approximately 3s. 8d. each. It is not clear if this actually refers to yards rather than to full cloths as the 1582 rates book has diaper cloth by the yard at a rate of 2s. and also diaper table cloths as pieces, containing 20 yards at 40s.

**Diaper Napkin:** Napkin made with the above fabric.

**Piece**

The 1582 rates book lists these at 8s. per dozen, they are found at around this value in 1594/5.

**Dice:** Small cube of ivory, bone, or other material, having its faces marked with spots numbering from one to six, used in games of chance. Listed by the 'bale'.

Dice are found in the 1600/1 account, valued by the bale. Valued at approximately 3d. ob. per bale, based on custom payments (6 bales paid 1d. cutom)

**Dice and small ropes for scales****Bale**

Six bales of dice and six small ropes for scales are listed together in the 1594/5 account, paying a total custom of 1d. Probably listed together as they are small items of a similar value packaged together.

**Dicker** (Text: dacra): A measure, particularly of hides. There are ten hides to a dicker.

**Dish, Blue Earthen** (Text: blewe arthen)

**Dozen**

Found in the 1591 account, valued at 2s. per dozen.

**Dish, Chafing:** Vessel to hold burning charcoal or other fuel, for heating anything placed upon it; a portable grate. (OED)

**Dish, Iron Chafing:** As above.

Piece

Found in the 1600/1 account, paying an ob. custom per piece.

**Dishes, Saucers and Basins (basens, dishes, sawcers)**

Found together in the 1594/5 account, two large basins and six bundles containing thirty four dishes and saucers had a total value of £6 6s. 8d.

**Dish, Painted**

Piece

Valued at 5d. per piece in 1550/1.

**Dish, White**

Chest

Found in the 1591 account, where 1 chest of dishes is valued at 20s.

**Doublets, Canvas:** An item of clothing used by both sexes. They consisted of a close fitted jacket with an upright collar and short skirt.

Piece

Doublets are found in the 1594/5 account valued at 10s. per piece. These are presumably the ‘doublets of canvas quilted the peece’ of the rates book, valued at this amount. Canvas doublets also occur in the 1575/6 account at 2s. 6d. per piece, which is half the value of canvas doublets in the rates book.

**Doublet, Sack Cloth:** Sack cloth is similar to canvas.

Doublets made of sack -cloth are found at 3s. 4d. per piece in the 1575/6 account. Sack cloth is similar to canvas.

**Drinking Can:** Vessel for holding liquids; made of various materials, shapes, and sizes.

Dozen

These occur in the 1600/1 account, paying an ob. per dozen custom, so valued at less than 10d. per dozen. These are not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Drinking Horn:** Vessel formed from the horn of a cow or other beast, or shaped after this, for holding liquid.

Dozen

Occurs in the 1594/5 accounts, valued at around 8s. per gross.

**Electuary:** (Text: electuars) ‘A medicinal conserve or paste, consisting of a powder or other ingredient mixed with honey, preserve, or syrup of some kind’. (OED)

Lb

Valued at 1s. 8d. per lb in 1575/6.

**Elephants Tusks** (Text: olipante tethe):

C (lb)

The 1582 rates book lists Elephant teeth at £3 6s. 8d. per C, which is equal to 112 lbs. According to Willan, these are Elephant tusks. They are found in 1563/4, 1594/5 and 1600/1 at this value.

**Ell:** Measurement of cloth, varying in different countries. The Flemish ell equaled 3 quarters of an English yard and five Flemish ells was equal to an English ell.<sup>25</sup>

**Falcon** (Text: fawcon)

Bird

Valued at 13s. 4d. per bird in the 1540s. These are not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Feathers** (fethers): Shipped by the bag. These are probably feathers for beds, as found in the 1507 rates book.

C (112 lbs.)

The 1507 book values ‘feathers for beds’ at 10s.. per C. Feathers occur at this value in the 1545/6 account as ‘fethers’. The account also contains a much more expensive ‘plumars’ which is presumably down. This is valued at £2 per C

**Feathers, Down** (Text: plumar’): more expensive than feathers, these are presumably ‘down’.

**Fell Fomiells:** Unidentified. A suggestion is that they may be poultices for wounds etc. as ‘fellis’ can be translated as poison and ‘fomentum’ is a poultice or bandage.

Dozen

These are not listed in the rates books. They are found in 1575/6 at 1s. per dozen.

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<sup>25</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 82.

**Felts, Black:** Felt is a textile made from wool or mixed fibres which are compressed, rolled or fulled to bind them together.<sup>26</sup> Felt was used mainly to make felt hats, and by association the term indicated both hats made of felt and, on occasion, hats in general.

**Felts, Childrens:**

Dozen

Found in the 1594/5 accounts at 20s. per dozen

**Felts, Spanish:** Felt hats made from Spanish felt wool.

Dozen

Found in the 1550/1 account, value varies from 6s. 8d. to 10s. per dozen. The 1591 account lists black Spanish felts but no value is available.

**Ferars:** Probably ferret skins, particularly as they are valued by the dicker.

Dicker

Found in 1503/4 at 2s. 6d. per dicker.

**Figs** (Lat.: ficus; Text: ficui, fygges): Fruit of the fig-tree or *Ficus*, esp. the fruit of the *Ficus carica* (OED). The accounts also list green figs or *ficni verdi*

Ton/Piece/Sorte (3 pieces = 1 sorte<sup>27</sup>)

The 1507 book values 'fygges' at 40s. the ton.

Figs are found in the accounts up to the 1550s at 40s. per ton. There appears to be ten sorts in a ton, ie. a sorte is valued at 4s. Although the 1582 rates book lists figs by the sort and piece, they are usually found in the accounts by the ton. According to the rates book there are 100 pieces in a ton, but in the 1600/1 account, there appears to be only 80 pieces.

The value of figs rose dramatically after the rates revision. They are found at £5 per ton in 1575/6 and at the much higher value of £13 6s. 4d. per ton in 1594/5 and 1600/1, as in the 1582 rates book. They are also found at 10s. per barrel in 1600/1. This difference between the 1575/6 and later accounts is noteworthy as according to Willan, there was no real difference between the values of the 1558 rates book and that of 1582.<sup>28</sup>

**Figs, Green (ficni verdi)**

Piece/C/Ton

Found at 3s. 4d. per piece in 1550/1.

**Files, Small:** A metal instrument, used for abrading, or smoothing surfaces. (OED)

<sup>26</sup> 'Feather band - Fernambuck', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58762&strquery=felts>, accessed 16 October 2008.

<sup>27</sup> Willan. *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 25.

<sup>28</sup> For detailed discussion of the rates rise in 1558 see Willan, pp. xxvi-xliii.



**Dozen**

Found in 1600/1, valued at, or less than 5d. per dozen, based on custom payments.

**Fish, Cod****Burden**

This is found in the 1591-2 account, but no value is available.

The 1582 book lists codfish the barrel at 10s.. and the C at 30s. but not by the burden

**Fish, Cole (coal)****C**

Cole is also known as green cod or black pollock

The 1582 rates book lists Coal-Fish at 20s. per C. It is found in 1563/4 at this value.

**Fish, Eels** (Lat.: anguilla; Text: anguil'/ eles/conger)**Barrel/C**

The 1507 and 1582 books list various kinds of 'elys'.

Eels are found in the accounts for the first half of the century at 13s. 4d. per barrel, and in the 1540s there is also an entry for a C of 'small' eels at 1s. 8d. There is also an entry in the 1516/17 account for 'conger', which, as it is shipped from Ireland by the barrel, is most likely to be conger eels. These are valued at 6s. 8d. per barrel.

**Fish, Gurnard** (Text: gurierds): Probably gurnard, a type of large marine fish.**Barrel**

Found in 1542 as an import from Ireland.

**Fish, Haddock****Barrel**

Found in the 1545/6 account, where 1 barrel is valued at 6s. 8d.

**Fish, Hake** (Text: hak, haak, hackes): According to Longfield, Hake are only supposed to have been known by that name since the fourteenth or fifteenth century, hence there was no proper latin equivalent and they are found with various spelling of the same word.

**C/Piece**

These are found by the piece as well as by the cwt. There are 120 hake in a C. They are found at 10s.. per C in the accounts up to the 1550s and are found at 20s. per C in 1563/4. The 1594/5 has hake at 10s. per last or at £6 per last.

**Fish, Herring Red** (Text: rub' alec): Smoked herring. Found by the meise, according to Longfield contained 5 long hundreds, so 600 fish.<sup>29</sup>

Meise or Mease

These are found in the accounts only up to 1563/4, they are valued at 5s. per meise in the accounts before the 1558 rates revision and also at this value in 1563/4.

**Fish, Herring White** (Text: alb' alec):

Barrel or last (1 last = 12 barrels)

Found by the last and also the *verk*, which appears to be quarter of a barrel. According to Carus-Wilson, a barrel of herring was equal to 30 gallons (0.119 ton).

The 1507 book lists 'herryng fulle' at £4 per last and 'herynge shotton' at £4 per last.

White herrings are valued at 5s per barrel before 1558 and at 10s. per barrel thereafter, including the 1563/4 account.

**Fish, Mackerel**: Found by the barrel.

Barrel

Found in the 1540s at 6s. 8d per barrel

**Fish, Newfoundland** (Text: novatera): Salted fish classified in three 'sorts'; big second and third, or as the 1582 book has it, great, middle and small.

The 1525/6 account has salted Newfoundland fish at £6 13s. 4d. per M. In the 1540s various values are given for the m of fish. The reason for this is evident in the 1550/1 account which clarifies that these fish are classified in three sizes, big sorts, second sorts and third sorts, or as the 1582 book has it, great, middle and small. The big sort in 1550 is valued at 20s.. per C, the second sort at 10s. per C and the third sort at 4s. per C.

The 1582 rates book adds that C contains vi.xx. and a great sort is 30s. , middle is 20s.. and small is 10s. They are found in the later accounts at these values.

**Fish, Newfoundland Dry**: Valued by the M.

M

Newfoundland fish described as dry are found in the 1594/5 account, valued at £5 per M 1595-£5 per M (note 1595 account contains one error where 8 M pays £2 10s. tax (ie value of £50) instead of £2. This has been corrected on database.

**Fish, Salmon**:

Pipe/ Hogshead/But/Barrel/Virkin (firkin)

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<sup>29</sup> Longfield, *Anglo-Irish Trade*, p. 48., Carus-Wilson, *Overseas Trade of Bristol*, p. 337.

The accounts for the first half of the century show that a pipe is valued at 30s., and a hogshead is found at both 30s. (1516/17, 1525/6) and also at 26s. 8d. (1546, 1550). A but is equal to half a pipe, ie. valued at 15s., a virk (vyrk, firkin) is equal to a quarter of a pipe, ie. valued at 7s. 6d and a barrel is equal to a but.

Some variations in how the values appear in the accounts from the later century also. For example in the 1563/4 account, a pipe is valued at £6 (possibly an error) and a hogshead at £3. a barrel is valued at 30s. In 1600/1. salmon is found by the ton at £12 and in 1594/5, a hogshead, as in 1563/4 is found at £3, and a firkin at 15s.

**Fish, Salmon Grilse** (Text: girles): The name given to a young salmon on its first return to the river from the sea, and retained during the same year. (OED)

Barrel

Found in the 1594/5 account at 15s. per hogshead. These are listed in the 1582 rates book at 15s. per barrel, so presumably a barrel is equal to a hogshead.

**Fish, Salted** (Text: pisc' sals'): These unspecified fish probably included the coarser fish, as the value per burden is not very high, and also fish that were known to be exported from Ireland and are not found separately in the accounts, such as cod, whiting, pilchard and bream, as well as hake and pike.<sup>30</sup>

Burden/C (120 fish)

Salted fish are found in the accounts by the burden and also by the piece. In the 1516/17 account, each fish is valued at 2d (20s. per C.) and a burden at 4s. 2d. It could be estimated then that in this case a burden consisted of 25 fish. Salted fish are found at 4s. 2d per burden until the 1550s and also in 1563/4. They are not found in the accounts examined after that.

**Fish, Sardines:**

Barrel/Hogshead

Found in the 1516/17 account, valued at 5s. per hogshead and at 2s. 2d. per barrel.

**Fish, Sprat** (Text: sprots): The term sprat can be applied to many small fish including young herring.

Barrel

These are found in the 1540s at 2s. 6d. per barrel.

**Fish, Sturgeon** (Text: sturse): Presumably an abbreviation of stureus, which according to Latham is sturgeon.<sup>31</sup> It is sometimes described as being 'broken'. As sturgeon are a very large fish, broken may refer to cut-up fish as opposed to the whole fish.

<sup>30</sup> Longfield, *Anglo-Irish Trade*, p. 49.

<sup>31</sup> Latham, *Revised Medieval Latin Word List* (OUP, 2004) p. 456.

## C

Sturser are found in the accounts at 10s. per C. It has been suggested that as sturgeon are a very large fish, broken may refer to cut-up fish as opposed to the whole fish.

**Flasket:** A small flask. The 1582 rates book lists flaskets for gun powder covered in leather and velvet and also flaskets made of horn.

Found in the 1550/1 account, valued at 13s. 4d. per dozen.

**Flax** (Text: flaxe): Flax is the English name of the annual *Linum usitatissimum*. The term flax or flaxen was used to describe the products of flax such as flax cloth, yarn and seed, or linseed, as well as the stalks from which the textile fibres are obtained.<sup>32</sup> As the term is applied to the plant and the fibres, it is found in the accounts, sometimes described as wrought or unwrought etc.

Dozen (presumably lbs)/Pack

In the accounts from the first half of the century, flax, although the type is unspecified, always seems to have numerous different values. For example in 1550/1, a C of flax is valued at 13s. 4d. and at 10s. and a dozen at 12d., 2s. 6d. and 5s. Flax is also found in this account by the pack at £4 each. These varying values suggest that various forms, probably wrought and unwrought were included in the accounts under the same name.

The 1582 book lists 'flax the dozen pound' at 2s. 6d. It also lists flax by the pack at £8 and states that a pack contains cl bales and weighs xx.c at v.xx xii li the C.

1582 book lists 'flax the dozen pound' at 2s. 6d, and unwrought flax at 13s. 4d. per c. It is found in the 1594/5 at these amounts.

**Fletchers Fryshe:** Unidentified. The fact that it is sold by the ell indicates it is something sold by length, perhaps a type of frieze cloth.

**Flitch** (Text: flege): A salted and cured 'side' of bacon.

**Flock:** Wool refuse or cloth shearings.

**Fother:** A weight, especially of lead. According to the *Noumbre of Weights*, it equals 19.5 C.<sup>33</sup> In practice, in the 1575 account for example, lead is listed by the 'piece' and fother and the amount of pieces to a fother is variable.

**Frankincense** (Lat.: tus; Text: thures, frankyncense)

Dozen/C

The 1507 book lists frankyncense at 20s per c wayte – i.e. c. 2s. per dozen lb.

<sup>32</sup> 'Flame head - Flaxen yarn', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58766>, accessed 16 October 2008.

<sup>33</sup> H. Hall and F.J. Nicholas (eds.) *Select Tracts and Table Books Relating to English Weights and Measures (1100-1742) Camden Miscellany* Vol. XV (London, 1929) p. 13.

It is found at varying values in the account. For example in 1516/17, it is 5s per c and in 1526, it is found at both 3s. 4d. and 6s. 8d. per C. It is found at 1s. 8d. per dozen in the 1540s. It is listed as 'thures' in the 1503/4 account, which according to OED is incense.

**Fringe** (Text: frenge): Decorative edging for garments.

Lb

It is found in 1575/6 at various values from 1s. to 2s. per lb, presumably depending on material used.

**Fruit** (Lat.: fructus; Text: fruct'): Unspecified types, valued by the piece or the ton.

Fruit is found in the accounts up to 1540s and not thereafter. It is usually valued by the ton, at £2, but is also found by the piece at 1s. 8d. (ie. 24 pieces in a ton)

**Fubligar**: Unidentified.

Found in the 1540s, valued at 1s. 6d. per dozen.

**Funnels**: A cone-shaped vessel usually fitted at the apex with a short tube, by means of which a liquid or powder etc., may be conducted through a small opening. Both tin and unspecified types are found by the dozen.

Dozen

Found in the 1575/6 account, where both funnels and tin funnels are valued at 2s. per dozen. Not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Furnando Bucke**: Unidentified. This is found by the C; listed with brazil in 1594/5.

**Gall** (Text: gale, galir, gawles): According to Willan, Galls are oak apples or gall-nuts used in making ink, tanning, medicine and dyeing. The OED describes gall as an 'excrecence produced on trees, especially the oak, by the action of insects. Oak-galls are largely used in the manufacture of ink and tannin, as well as in dyeing and in medicine'.

C (112 lbs.)

Gall is found in the 1550/1 account, valued at 13s 4d per C. The 1582 rates book lists Galles the C. containing v.xx xii li at 26s. 8d, They occur in 1600/1 at this value. The 1594/5 account has gales at this value but also has two listings for galer/galir, which is much more expensive at 30s per dozen (unless this is a customs officer error for c.) It is unclear what this other commodity is. It could be the Gallingle of the rates book, but the values don't match. Galls are sometimes listed in the accounts with copperas, which further suggests that they are oak apples, as both these commodities are used in the dyeing industry.

**Game-birds** (Text: forest gylls):

Found in the 1540s, valued at 6d. ob. per bird. It is not clear what type of birds these are.

**Garron:** A small and inferior kind of horse bred and used chiefly in Ireland and Scotland. These are found in the 1600/1 account, valued at 13s. 4d. each.

**Gartering:** Garters are strips of material used to tie around or to stockings just below the knee to hold them in place. They were often made of rich material and could be embellished with goldsmith work or with rich embroidery. Gartering occurs frequently in the later accounts and is found by the roll or dozen, of types including crewel, Norwich and worsted. Possibly 'gartering' relates to rolls of material used to make garters and not the finished product, which turn up in pairs of types including broad, check, coarse and ribbon. Dozens of gartering may be yards etc.

In the 1594/5 account, gartering is valued at around 1s. 8d. per roll and at 6s. 8d. per dozen. It may of course be that gartering and garters are the same thing, and are just written differently in the accounts, because in the 1575/6 account, garters are found by the roll.

### **Gartering, Crewel**

Gross, roll

Valued at 6s. 8d. per gross in 1594/5 and at 5s. per gross and 1s. per small roll in 1575/6.

### **Gartering, Norwich**

Gross

Valued at 3s. 4d. per gross in 1594/5.

### **Gartering, Worsted**

Role

Found in 1575/6 at 3s. 2d. per role

### **Garters, Broad**

Dozen

Valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen in 1594/5.

### **Garters, Check**

Dozen

Found at 9d. per dozen in 1575/6.

### **Garters, Coarse**

Dozen pair

Presumably these relate to pairs of fully manufactured garters. They are found in the 1594/5 account at 20s. per dozen pair, which is much more expensive than any of the other gartering. There is one entry in the 1540s for 'gart' which is valued at 3d. per ?piece. This too may be garters.

### **Garters, Ribbon**

Gross

Found in 1575/6 at 8s. per gross.

**Ginger** (Lat.: zingiberi; Text: zinziper, gynis):

Lb, C

Note the 1582 rates book states that there are 100 lb to a cwt but the 1600/1 account states 112 lb to C.<sup>34</sup>

The accounts (particularly 1525/6) give different values for the same quantities of ginger, which is sometimes listed as zinziper, gynis or ginger in the same account. This probably distinguishes green from white ginger, the former of which is more highly valued in the 1582 rates book.

**Girdles** (Lat.: zona; Text: sona', zonar'): A belt, fastened at the front and hung about the waist. Described simply as zonar in the earlier accounts, there are a large variety of different types in the later accounts.

Dozen/Lb (1551)

In the 1525/6 and 1540s accounts, girdles written as such vary in value from 5d. to 20d. per dozen. These earlier accounts also list silk girdles at 3s. 4d. per dozen and coarse girdles at 4d. per dozen.

**Girdle and Penners Girdle and Penners** (Text: sonar' & penners): Leather girdle with a pen-case attached.

Dozen

A leather girdle with a pen-case attached.  
Valued at 1s. per dozen in the first half of the century.

### **Girdles, Caddis**

Dozen

Found in 1550/1 at 1s. 8d. per dozen

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<sup>34</sup> TNA E190/1132/11 f04v.

## **Girdles, Crewel**

Gross

Valued in the later accounts at 13s. 4d. per gross

**Girdle Hangers:** These were attached to the mans girdle which consisted of two straps and a plate to which was buckled the scabbard of the sword. These were often gifts from ladies to men and were also given by grooms to their male attendants.<sup>35</sup>

Dozen

These are found in the 1591 account, no value available.

## **Girdles, Leather**

Dozen

In the 1563/4 account Girdles, leather '1d' or 'peny leather girdles' are valued at 10d. per dozen. The '2d.' variety cost twice as much. Girdles, like combs, in the later account are often listed as being ob. 1d. or 2d. which presumably related to quality etc, as it doesn't follow that they are valued at this much.

## **Girdles, Nobs Silk**

Lb

Occurs in 1594/5 and pays ob. per lb custom so valued at under 10 d. per lb

## **Girdles, Ribbon**

Dozen

Found in the 1563/4 account at 20d. per dozen

## **Girdles, Round Silk**

Lb

Occurs in 1594/5 and pays ob. per lb custom so valued at under 10d. per lb

**Girdles, Seal.:** A belt with an attachment for holding a seal.

Dozen

Found in 1550/1, valued at 9s. 9d. per dozen. Presumably this was made of an expensive material, as it is valued at three times as much, for example, as the sword girdle.

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<sup>35</sup> URL: [www.vertetsable.com/research\\_vocabulary](http://www.vertetsable.com/research_vocabulary).



**Girdles, Silver**

Dozen

Found in 1563/4 valued at 7s. per dozen.

**Girdles, Sword**

Dozen

Found in 1550/1, valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen.

**Girdles, Waist** (Text: waste)

Dozen

Occurs in the 1594/5 account and pays 1d. per dozen custom so value is under 20d. per dozen.

**Girth:** A belt or band of leather or cloth, placed round the body of a horse or other beast of burden and drawn tight, so as to secure a saddle, pack, etc. upon its back. (OED)

Dozen

Valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen in the 1594/5 account.

**Girth Buckles:** The buckle used to secure a girth.

Dozen

These are not listed in the 1582 rates book, but occur in 1594/5 valued at around 7d. ob. per dozen based on custom payments.

**Girth Web:** Woven material of which girths are made; a strong broad tape used by upholsterers and others; a band made of this material. (OED)

The 1582 book values this at 6s. 8d. per gross. It occurs at this value in the later accounts. Interestingly the OED cites the following: ‘**1571 Wills & Inv. N.C.** (Surtees 1835) 361 In Ye Great Shoppe ij groce of gythwebe and xv peces at vij<sup>s</sup>. ij<sup>d</sup>. ye groce’, which presumably resembles the market value in 1571.

**Glass:** (Lat.: vitrum; Text: vitri’)

Valued by the cribb and case. See above.

In 1591, 3 cases are listed as paying 3s. custom, therefore valued at 20s. per case. This agrees with the 1582 rates book listing for ‘glasse called normandy glasse the case’ at 20s.

In the 1594/5 account, glass by the case is listed at both 20s. a case and also at approximately half that value. This presumably relates to different grades of glass.

**Glasses, Drinking:** These include 'French' drinking glasses, which are the most expensive, along with 'green' glasses and cheaper varieties like 'penny' and 'halfpenny' glasses.

Dozen

Glasses of unspecified types occur in the 1540s, at prices varying from 3d. to 8d. per dozen. The more expensive types are probably French glasses.

Drinking glasses occur in the 1594/5 account at 13s. 4d. per gross (13d. per dozen) and are also listed at 8s. 4d. per gross (probably French drinking glasses, as below) The accounts also have Green glasses at 1s. 6d. per dozen and brace glasses (unidentified) at around 17d. per dozen. Glasses are also, like combs, knives and other small objects sometime listed as being penny glasses or half penny glasses.

**Glasses, Drinking Coarse:** Drinking vessel made of glass.

Dozen

Valued at 10s. per gross (10d. per dozen) in the 1594/5 account, based on custom payment. These are the same value as French drinking glasses listed in the account also and are probably the same thing as the rates book lists only French and Venice glasses and the Venice glasses are much more expensive at 4s. per dozen.

**Glasses, Drinking French**

These are found at 8s. 4d. per gross in the later accounts.

**Glasses, Hour:** An object for measuring time, consisting of a glass vessel with obconical ends connected by a constricted neck, through which a quantity of sand runs in exactly an hour. (OED)

Dozen

Found at 3s. per dozen in 1575/6 and at 20d in 1594/5. The rates book has three types of hour glasses, the lowest, simply listed as hour glasses, are valued at 20d. per dozen, with Flanders hour glasses 'of the finest sort' at 6s. 8d. and Venice hour glasses at 20s. per dozen.

**Glasses, Looking:**

Dozen

The first entry found in the accounts examined is in 1525/6, where a looking glass is valued at 2d. Looking glasses occur in the 1550 account, varying in value from 4d. to 5d. per dozen. The 1582 book lists 'glasses to look in' at 8s. per gross, i.e. 8d. per dozen. It also specifies that looking glasses are made of steel or crystal, although such specifics are not found in the later accounts, where they are found simply described as being small or being penny or half penny glasses.

**Gloves:** A covering for the whole of the hand, usually one with a separate sheath for each finger. (OED)

## Dozen (pairs)

1507 book lists gloves at 13s. 4d. the gross, i.e. about 13d. per dozen.

Gloves are found at 2s. 6d. per dozen in the 1540s

The 1582 book lists various types of gloves, the price of which varies greatly according to materials and place of making. Gloves are found in 1594/5 at 3s. 4d. per dozen pairs. In 1600/1 a dozen 'coarse' gloves are found at the same value.

**Gloves, Venice:** Presumably gloves having some connection with Venice.

Dozen

Found at 8s. per dozen in 1563/4

**Glue (Text: glew):** 'A hard, brittle, brownish gelatin, obtained by boiling the hides and hoofs of animals to a jelly; when gently heated with water, it is used as a cement for uniting substances'. (OED).

## Lb

Valued 1s. 8d. per dozen in the 1540s. It is found in 1576 at 10s. per C in one entry but when listed in lbs, the value varies each time. It is also found at 10s. per C in 1595. The 1582 book lists glue at this value and confirms the C is equal to 112 lbs.

**Goad:** Cloth measure of 1.5 yards.

**Goshawks:** A large short-winged hawk.

Piece

Found in 1503/4 at 40s. and 60s. per bird.

**Gouge and Formes** (Text: gowge and formes): A gouge is a chisel with a concave blade for cutting rounded grooves or holes in wood. Formes is possibly a related object.

Dozen

Found in the 1594/5 account, where 1 dozen is valued at 3s. 4d.

**Grain:** See kermes.

**Graters:** An instrument with a rough indented surface used for grating or rasping.

Dozen

Found in 1600/1 of uncertain value. They come in large and small varieties.

**Grid-Irons:** A cooking utensil formed of parallel bars of iron or other metal in a frame, usually supported on short legs, and used for broiling flesh or fish over a fire. (OED)

## Piece

Valued at 10d. per piece in the 1540s.

These are not listed in the 1507 or 1582 books, so value was probably based on the merchant's estimate.

**Grind-Stones:** A disc of stone revolving on an axle, used for grinding, sharpening, or polishing. (OED)

## Piece

These are presumably smaller than millstones or 'dogstones' based on their lower value in the accounts.

Valued at 2s. 6d. per piece in 1600/1, The 1594/5 account has a pair of grind stones valued at around 10d. and also a small grind stone at the same value. Price is variable depending on size.

**Gross:** Twelve dozen. A 'great' gross is twelve gross.

**Gunpowder** (Text: gounpodor, cornpowder): An explosive mixture of saltpetre, sulphur, and charcoal, chiefly used in discharging projectiles from guns and for blasting. (OED) The 1582 rates book lists 'gunpoulder called corn poulder' and cornpowder is found at the same value as gunpowder in the accounts.

## Lb

Gunpowder is found as an export to Ireland in 1551, at 4d. per lb. It occurs in the 1594/5 account at 33s. 4d. per C, which is the same as the rates book. Corn Powder is also listed in the 1563/4 account at this value.

## H

**Halbertes, Gilt or Ungilt:** A pike fitted with an axe; a battle axe.

## Piece

A pike fitted with an axe; a battle axe. The ungilted variety occurs in the 1594/5 account, valued at 20d. per piece. The 1582 rates book lists ungilted at this value and gilted halberds at 6s. 8d. per piece.

**Hats:** A covering for the head; generally distinguished from other head-gear, such as cap's by having a more or less horizontal brim all round.

## Dozen

1576 account does not specify types of hats and values vary significantly from 6s. 8d. per dozen to 16s. 4d. per dozen. There are also hats valued per piece at 1s. each.

In the 1594/5 account, hats are usually valued at 30s. per dozen, including coarse and women's hats

### **Hats, Black**

Dozen

Found at 30s. per dozen in 1594/5

### **Hats, for Children**

Piece

Found at 1s. per hat in 1575/6 and at 20s. per dozen hats in 1594/5

**Hatchets, Dansk:** A smaller or lighter axe with a short handle, adapted for use with one hand. These are presumably from Gdansk, or are made in a similar style.

Piece

Valued at 1s. per piece in 1575/6.

**Hawk Hoods:** A covering for a hawk's head and eyes.

Dozen

Found at 2s. per dozen in 1575/6

**Hawser:** A large rope or small cable, in size midway between a cable and a tow-line, between five and ten inches in circumference; used in warping and mooring; in large ships now made of steel. (OED)

**Headstalls** (Text: headstales): The part of a bridle or halter that fits round the head of an animal. Presumably these were not just for horses, since the 1600/1 account has headstalls also headstalls for horses at differing values.

Dozen

Presumably these were not just for horses, since the 1600/1 account has headstall at 10s. per dozen and also headstalls for horses at 5s. per dozen, based on custom payments. Headstalls are found in the 1594/5 account at 5s., but not in the 1582 rates book.

**Hedlack:** A linen cloth.<sup>36</sup> This is found by the lb in the accounts and so may be a linen thread, rather than cloth.

Lb

This is listed in the 1582 rates book by the ell. It occurs in the 1550/1 account, valued at 12d. per lb. Uncertain if it's the same thing as lbs seems an unusual measurement for cloth.

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<sup>36</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 22.

**Hemp** (Text: hemepe): An annual herbaceous plant, *Cannabis sativa*, cultivated for its valuable fibre or the fibre of this plant, used for making cordage, and woven into stout fabrics. (OED)

Weight/Dozen/Ton/C

1503- 2s. 6d. per stone.

1516, 1526- none found.

1545- 4s. per weight and 23s. 4d per C.

1543- 1s. 4d. or 1s. 8d. per weight.

1550- 3s. per weight.

Note: 1576-listed by the doz: 2s. 6d. and by the weight: 5s. Therefore a *weight* = 2 doz.

The 1582 book lists hemp by the cwt (112lbs.), the dozen (2s. 6d.) and the sack (3 cwt.).

1601- pays either 1d ob. or 4d. cust so valued at both 2s. 6d. and 3s. 4d. per doz. ?-C is 20s.)

### **Hides, Bull Dry**

Piece

These are found on only one occasion in the accounts examined, in 1594/5, when four hides paid 1s. custom and so were valued at 20s.

**Hides, Ginney**<sup>37</sup>: Hides from Guinea, West Africa. The OED has Ginney as a spelling for Guinea. The specific type of hide is unknown.

C

Found in the 1600/1 account by the C and the dozen, described as ‘ginney kips in the hair’ and ginney calves as well as simply ginney skins. The adult skins are given a value of £33 6s. 8d. per C, while the kips are valued at half this amount. There is an entry for ginney calves in the hair at 10s. per dozen.

**Hides, India**: Type of hide is unknown.

Piece

1595- 10s. per piece.

**Hides Kip** (kip tannat): The hide of a young animal used as leather (OED). It is taxed in the same way as normal tanned hides (see below) but pays half the custom.

Dicker

**Hides Tanned** (Lat.: Corium; Text: corrior tannat): Leather. Tanned hides pay the Ancient Custom of 8d. per dicker, the Parliamentary subsidy of 40d. per dicker, the ‘Calais Penny’ of 1d. per dicker (payable on all leather exported to places other than the Calais Staple). Each

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<sup>37</sup> TNA E190/1132/11 f07r.

consignment also has to pay a sum, usually 2d. for the exit cocket (certificate) issued by the customer.

**Hilts and Pommells:** The hilt is the handle of a sword; the pommel is the counterweight at the top of the handle to provide the desired balance.

Dozen

Found in the 1575/6 account, where the value varies from 13s. 4d. per dozen to 20s. per dozen.

Also listed in the account are pairs of 'single hilts' at 13s. a pair.

**Hinges, Portal:** Hinges for a door or gate.

Pair

Valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen pairs in 1575/6.

**Hogshead:** Measure of capacity of wine etc., equal to one quarter of a tun.

**Holland Sheets:** Presumably sheets made from Holland cloth, which was a linen fabric from the province of Holland.

Pair

Found at 26s. 8d. per pair in 1594/5.

**Honey** (Lat.: mel; Text: mellis):

Barrel

The 1507 book values honey at 13s. 4d. per barrel.

Honey is found in the 1540s at 16s. 8d. the barrel and this increases to 30s. per barrel in the later accounts or £12 per ton.

**Hooks, Fish:** Barbed hook used for catching fish.

C

Valued at 10d. per C in 1594/5, based on custom payments. Not listed in 1582 rates book.

**Hooks and Eyes:** Fastenings made of steel wire, sown to the inside of bodices and doublets as invisible fastners. These replaced points in the late sixteenth century as fasteners of hose to garments, with the points remaining as decoration only.<sup>38</sup>

M

Pays 1d. per M custom in 1600/1.

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<sup>38</sup> URL: [http://www.vertetsable.com/research\\_vocabulary.htmh](http://www.vertetsable.com/research_vocabulary.htmh) accessed 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

**Hooks, Hake:** Fish hooks specific to hake fishing.

Dozen

Found at 6d. per dozen in 1575/6.

**Hooks, Small**

C

The 1507 book values 'hookes that be small' at 2s. per gross. These are possibly dress hooks, used for fastening clothing. They are found at a value of 2d. per C in the 1540s.

**Hopes for Serches:** See Serches below

Dozen

Found at 20s. per gross in the 1563/4 account.

**Hops** (Text: hoppis, hoppys, lupulor): Female flowers of the plant *Humulus Lupulus*, which are used as a flavouring and stabiliser in beer production.

The 1507 book values 'Hoppys the sack conteaning vii C' at 40s. – i.e. 5s. 8d. per C. Hops are found at this value in 1503/4. The 1516/17 account records two different values for 'hoppis'; 5s. per C and 6s. 8d. per C., The reason for this is unknown. The account also has 'pockets' of hops, valued at 30s per pocket. A pocket is a coarse bag or sack, for which the capacity varies.<sup>39</sup> In the 1525/6 account, hops are valued at 10s per C, and at this value also in the 1540s.

The 1582 book values hops at 10s. per C. Note: It also values 'barrel hoops' at 10s. per M. Hops are found at this value in 1575/6 and 1594/5. In the later account, hops are often called 'lupulor', presumably from the Latin *lupulus*. Lupulor are found at the same value in the accounts as hops and on one occasion, cross comparisons of the surveyor and controllers accounts showed that one official entered the commodity as hops and the other as lupulor, indicating that it is the same thing.

**Hoperods:** Possibly a rod for removing hops from the poles on which they grew. The National Hop Association of England website has reproduced an image with a quote by Reynolde Scott, dated from 1574; "Cut them asunder with a sharp hook and with a forked staffe, take them from the poles."<sup>40</sup> Perhaps these Hop rods are such staffs.

C

They are found in the 1516/17 account, as an export to Spain, valued at 6d. per C.

<sup>39</sup> Zupko, *Dictionary of Weights and Measures*, p. 306.

<sup>40</sup>National Hops Association of England Website, URL: [www.hops.co.uk/sectionone/History.htm](http://www.hops.co.uk/sectionone/History.htm), accessed 18<sup>th</sup> December 2007.



**Horse** (Lat.: equus; Text: equis): Value was presumably determined by declaration of the merchant. Note, since 1495, the export of horses without a licence had been prohibited, unless it was declared to be for the merchant's own use.<sup>41</sup>

Found in the 1540s at £1 6s. 8d. Neither the 1507 nor the 1582 books have entries for horses.

### **Horse Combs:**

Dozen

The accounts suggest that, like ordinary combs, horse combs came in different types. The 1575/6 account lists horse combs at 4s. per dozen, while in 1594/5 horse combs pay just 1d. custom per dozen and so are valued at less than 20d.

**Hose:** 'An article of clothing for the leg; sometimes reaching down only to the ankle as a legging or gaiter, sometimes also covering the foot like a long stocking'. (OED)

### **Hose, Mens**

Pairs

Found at 3s. 9d. per pair in 1550/1

### **Hose, Silk**

Pair

Valued at £1 6s. 8d. per pair in 1563/4

### **Hose, Womens**

Dozen

Valued at 10s. per dozen pairs in 1550/1 and at 8s. 4d. per dozen (presumably pairs) in 1594/5. Price presumably varies according to material. The 1582 rates book lists only 'Hose of silk knit the paire' at 26s. 8d. per pair.

### **Hose, Worsted**

Pair

Valued at 6s. 8d. per pair in 1594/5.

## **I**

**Indigo:** Blue dye, obtained from shrubs of the genus *indigofera* in the pea family.

Lb

A blue dye, obtained from shrubs of the genus *indigofera* in the pea family.

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<sup>41</sup> *Statutes of the Realm*, III, pp 323-5.

In 1594/5, 6 lbs of indigo is listed as paying 2s., therefore valued at £2. Willan comments that Indigo was one of the commodities that was listed in the 'revised book' of 1594 as being undervalued and that its value was increased to 2s. per lb. That however is very far off the value noted here, which works out at 6s. 8d. per lb. this indigo is 'coarse' indigo as another entry described as such is found at the same value in this account.

**Insense** (Text: ensone): An aromatic substance such as wood or gum that is burned to produce a pleasant odour.

Lb

Valued at 1s. 3d. per lb in the 1540s.

**Ink Horns:** A small portable vessel (originally made of a horn) for holding writing-ink. (OED)

Dozen

Valued at 7d. per dozen in the 1540s

The 1582 book values 'Inck hornes' at 10s. the gross.

**Inkle** (Text: yncle): A linen tape of various qualities and widths.

Piece, Lb, Gross

A linen tape of various qualities and widths.

Inkle of an unspecified is found in the 1600/1 account (the most common sort) valued at around 10d. per piece, but values vary considerably, based on custom payments. This is not described as it is in the 1582 rates book, which has 'Incklerole' by the piece, a term that seems to distinguish wrought inkle from unwrought or inkle thread. The accounts do also have entries for inkle by the lb, which is probably inkle thread.

**Inkle, Coloured**

Lb

Pays 1d. per lb. custom in 1600/1, so valued at around 20d. per lb.

**Inkle, Coarse**

Lb/Piece

Found by the lb. and the piece in 1600/1.

**Inkle, Narrow**

Dozen Pieces

Valued at around 3s. 4d. per dozen pieces in 1600/1, based on custom payments.

**Inkle, White**

Lb

Presumably the unwrought inkle found in the rates book, which can be 'single or double' and is rated by the C li.

**Iron** (Lat.: ferrum; Text: ferri): A metal, used for making tools, weapons, implements etc.

1 ton = 2 pipes = 4 hogsheads = 20 C = 80 quarters

The 1507 book values 'iryne the tunne' 40s.

Imported iron, in the accounts for the first half of the century is valued at £2 10s. per ton, exported iron at £4 per ton.

The 1582 book values 'Spanish Iron the tun' £4. Each ton containing 20 x 112 lbs. It values exported iron £8 per ton. There are also entries in the 1575/6 account for flanders iron at 6s. 8d. per lb.

Also noted is a kyndale of iron (1550), value not certain, which according to Zupko is a quintal, equal to a hundredweight.<sup>42</sup>

**Iron Wire**

Lb

Valued at around 4d. per lb in 1594/5 based on custom payments.

**Isinglass**: A firm whitish semitransparent substance obtained from the sounds or air-bladders of some fresh-water fishes, esp. the sturgeon; used in cookery for making jellies and also for clarifying liquors, in the manufacture of glue, and for other purposes. (OED)

Lb

Found in 1594/5 and 1600/1, exact value unknown. This is listed in the rates book at 2d per lb.

**Ivory**: A hard, white, substance composing the main part of the tusks of the elephant, hippopotamus etc., very expensive and used ornamentally.

Lb

Found at 5s. per lb in 1594/5

**Items misc.** (Text: diversus parius rebus): Term used to describe what is probably 'lots' of small manufactured items.

**J**


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<sup>42</sup> Zupko, *Dictionary of Weights and Measures*, p. 342.

**Jerkins, Leather** (Text: jurkins): A close-fitting jacket, jersey, or short coat, often made of leather.

Piece

Valued at 3s. per piece in the 1575/6 account.

**Jhumblas**: According to Willan ‘jumb’ is perhaps jujuba a sort of plumb growing mainly in Provence, used as an aperient and expectorant.<sup>43</sup>

## K

**Kerchief** (Text: kerchers): ‘A cloth used to cover the head, formerly a woman's head-dress’. (OED)

**Kermes** (Text: graynes, graines):

Lb

‘Graynes’ are usually kermes ‘the pregnant female of the insect *Coccus ilicis*, formerly supposed to be a berry; gathered in large quantities from a species of evergreen oak in S. Europe and N. Africa, for use in dyeing, and formerly in medicine; the red dye-stuff consisting of the dried bodies of these insects’ (OED)

There is room for confusion in the accounts however as it seems that ‘graynes’ can mean kermes or ‘graines’ which according to Willan are Guinea grains or malagueta pepper.<sup>44</sup> The only way to differentiate between the two is by value, as in the 1582 rates book, graines are valued at only 8d per lb, while kermes graynes are found at 3s. 4d. or 6s. 8d. per lb, depending on type.

The 1507 book values Seville ‘grayne’ at 1s. per lb. and Portuguese at 1s. 4d. per lb and ‘graynes’ are found in the 1516/17 and 1540s accounts at these values. The 1525/6 account however has ‘graynes’ at 50s. per C, which works out at only around 5d. per lb. This is probably guinea grains as above. Similarly, the 1563/4 and 1575/6 accounts list graines at 8d. per lb, the value of guinea grains in the 1582 rates book.

The 1594/5 account has an entry for graynes at 3s. 4d. per lb, which is likely to be kermes. To avoid confusion in the datasets, all entries for graynes that seem to be kermes, based on price, are described as such, while the lower value commodity is inserted as ‘graines’.

**Kilderkin** (Text: kinderkin): A cask for liquids or fish etc. It is usually equal to half a barrel.

**Kippe**: A measure for skins containing 50 skins.<sup>45</sup>

**Knives** (Lat.: culter; Text: cult’, knyves)

<sup>43</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 76.

<sup>44</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 30.

<sup>45</sup> Zupko, *Dictionary of Weights and Measures*, p. 213.

## Dozen, Pair

Knives are a frequent commodity in the accounts and values vary depending on type. The earlier accounts do not specify types. The 1516/17 account for example has *cultell* at 6s. 8d. per gross, while the 1525/6 account has *cultell* at 1s. 8d. per dozen and at 6s. 8d. per gross. In the 1540s, *cultell* are found again at 6s 8d per gross and there are also entries for *cult' pars* or *pairs cult'*, at 1s. 8d. per dozen, which most likely refers to pairs of knives, which are also found in the 1582 rates book, which lists cullen knives and French knives by the pair. While these *cultell* valued by the gross are probably for the most part small knives, perhaps like pen-knives, which are found in the later accounts and in the 1582 rates book, also valued by the gross at the more expensive rate of 10s. , this is not always the case. In 1550/1, for example, there is an entry for *cult'* at an expensive 33s. 4d. per gross, which suggests that the earlier accounts contain more variety of types of objects that is immediately apparent.

**Knives, Almaine:** German knives.

## Gross

These are found in the 1550/1 account, valued at 20s. per gross and in the 1563/4 account at 2s. 6d. per dozen (probably pairs) The 1582 book notes that 'Almaine knives and other coarse knives' are sold by the gross, being 'xii dosen pair', and are valued at 30s. the gross, or 2s. 6d. per dozen pair.

**Knives, Bumbard/ Bombard:** Unidentified.

Found in the 1550/1 account, valued at 20s. per gross. Found in 1563/4 listed with Almaine knives.

**Knives, Cappe:** Unidentified.

## Dozen

Found in the 1575/6 accounts, valued at 2s. 6d. per dozen

**Knives, Cullen** (Text: *collyn*, *collen*): Probably Cologne knives.<sup>46</sup>

Found at 2s. 6d. per dozen in 1575. These are listed in the 1582 rates book at £3 6s. 8d. per gross (pairs of cullen knives)

**Knives, Flanders:** From Flanders, or possibly resembling Flanders knives.

## Dozen

Valued at 2s. 6d. per dozen in 1575/6

**Knives, Paring** (Text: *paringe*): It is sometimes difficult to tell if knives in pairs are in fact 'paring knives'. The fact that paring knives do exist in the accounts, despite not being listed in the 1582 rates book, is suggested by the 1575/6 account, which has an entry for *pairs* of 'paringe knyves' at 2d. per pair.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>46</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 20.

<sup>47</sup> TNA E190/1129/12 f19r.

**Dozen**

Paring knives are also found in 1600/1, valued at 20d. per dozen, based on custom payments. These are clearly paring knives as opposed to pairs of knives.

**Knives (penny and two penny)****Dozen**

Penny Knives are found at 20s. per gross in 1575/6 and twopenny knives are found at 30s. per gross.

**Knives, Pocket****Dozen**

Valued at 1s. 8d. per dozen in 1594/5, based on custom payments.

**Knives, Prage:** Possibly a knife for eating with.

**Dozen**

The OED has Prage as a type of knife, but doesn't specify the type. The 1507 book has an entry for 'knyves called prags' and they are found in the 1542/3 account, valued at 12d. per dozen. They are also found in 1563/4, valued at 16s. 8d. per gross.

**Knives, Shoe maker** (Text: shewmaker)**Dozen**

Valued at 20d. per dozen in 1594/5.

**Knives, Small****Dozen**

Valued at 1s. 3d. per dozen in the 1540s

**L**

**Lace, Chain** (Text: cheine): The dictionary of traded commodities suggests that this is similar to 'Chain Boulee', which is described as 'A short rough cord made in macrame lace (made of knotted thread) with two threads'<sup>48</sup>

It is found on only one occasion in the accounts, in 1595 and is valued at around 5d. an ounce.

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<sup>48</sup> 'Chain - Chandelier', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58721>, accessed 16 October 2008.

**Lace, Statute:**

Lb/gross

OED: **1590** in *Antiquary* XXXII. 118, xij yeards \*stattute lace, xiid. **1592** *Wills & Inv. N.C.* (Surtees) II. 211, ij grose of statute lace 12s.

This is likely to be actual lace and not laces / points, as the yards noted above in the OED would be a more appropriate unit for the measurement of lace. It has therefore been entered as lace in the datasets.

This pays 4d. per gross custom in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts and so is valued at around 6s. 8d. per gross.

**Lacquer** (Text: laqor, lacqor): A gold-coloured varnish, consisting chiefly of a solution of pale shellac in alcohol, tinged with saffron, anatta, or other colouring matters; used chiefly as a coating for brass. (OED)

Valued at 1s. 8d. per gross in 1525/6 and in the 1540s. This is not listed in the rates books

**Lanterns** (Lat.: lanterna; Text: lanthornes): A transparent case, e.g. of glass, horn, talc, containing and protecting a light.

Dozen

Valued at 6s. 8d. per dozen in the 1594/5 account. These are not listed in rates book.

**Last:** A measure of hides equal to 20 dickers and of fish, equal to 12 barrels.

**Lead** (Lat. Plumbum; Text: plumbi'/ plumb' operat): Lead 'in sowes' is a 'large oblong mass of solidified metal as obtained from the blast- or smelting-furnace'. (OED)

Ton/ fother/piece

In the first half of the century, worked lead is valued at £5 per ton. It is also found by the fother in 1550/1, at a value of £4. The 1575/6 account lists lead by the fother and specifies how many pieces are in each fother, but never more than twenty. Each piece is valued at 8s. In the 1594/5 account, lead is valued at £8 per ton. This account specifies that there are 18 pieces to a ton. The accounts also frequently list that lead is 'in sowes', which according to the OED means a 'large oblong mass of solidified metal as obtained from the blast- or smelting-furnace'. This however is clearly different from a bar of lead which is also identified in the 1594/5 account.

**Lead, White:** It is possible that white lead was a name used for tin. (OED)

Clb/Ton

White lead is valued at £4 per ton in 1600/1. The 1582 book lists white lead at 15s. per C and states that C contains 112 lbs.

**Lemons:**

Ton, M (12 M (thousand) = 1 ton)

Valued at £2 per ton in the first half of the century. The 1582 book lists lemons at 6s. 8d. per M. This works out at £4 per ton.

**Lime** (Text: lyme) Alkaline earth obtained by submitting limestone to a red heat, by which the carbonic acid is driven off, leaving a brittle white solid, which is pure lime.

Ton/Last

Valued in the 1540s at 2s. 6d. per ton. It is also found in the 1550/1 account at 5s. per last. Lime is found in the later accounts by the barrel and the last. It is not found in the 1582 rates book.

**Liquorice** (Text: licoric, licor'): The rhizome of the plant *Glycyrrhiza glabra*. Also, a preparation (used medicinally and as a sweetmeat) made from the evaporated juice of this rhizome. (OED)

Dozen/Bale

Values for a dozen of liquorice vary in the earlier accounts, for example it is found in 1516/17 at 1s. 8d. per dozen and in the 1540s at 10d. or 2s. per dozen. It is also found in the 1525/6 account at 6s. 8d. per C and at 3s. 4d. per bale. In the later accounts, a C is valued at 10s. and according to the rates book, a C contains 112 lbs. and there are two bales in a C. In the 1600/1 account, the amount of bales in a c seems variable however and this account also mentions double bales.

**Loaf:** A moulded conical mass of hard sugar made by passing syrup through already refined sugar in a sugar pot. Loaves varied in size.<sup>49</sup> If bought in this form the sugar would have been broken up using sugar nippers. Loaves in the accounts contain anything from 6 to 11lb.

**Locks, Hanging:** Padlocks.

These are found at different values depending on size. The 1600/1 account has hanging locks at 3s. 4d. per dozen and small ones at 1s. 8d. per dozen. Padlocks are listed in the same account at the same values.

**Locks, Small Spring:** A form of lock in which a spring presses the bolt outwards.

Piece

Found in the 1600/1 account.

## **M**

**M:** A thousandweight or ten hundreds or hundred weights. *See C.*

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<sup>49</sup> 'Sugar loaf - Surfeit water', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58889>, accessed 16 October 2008



**Mace:** Aromatic spice found surrounding the seed in the fruit of the nutmeg tree, dried and used as a spice.

The 1507 book values Maces the c wayte' £12 10s. (If C wayte = 100 lb, like many other spices are, this is c. 2s. 6d. per lb.)

It is found at 2s. 6d. per lb. up to the 1550s and is valued at 6s. 8d. per lb in the 1663-4 and 1575/6 accounts. Mace is not found in the 1594/5 or 1600/1 accounts.

The 1582 book values 'Maces the li.' 6s. 8d.

**Madder:** A reddish-purple dyestuff obtained from the root of the plant *Rubia tinctorum*. Also used medicinally.

Bale (8 C) /C (112 lb)<sup>50</sup>

The 1507 book lists 'mather called croppe mather' as 50s. per bale and 'mullmather' as 20s. the bale. In the 1516/17 account, unspecified madder is found at both 40s. and 50s. per bale. In the 1540s it is found at 6s. 8d. per C and in 1550/1, at 6s, 8d. and 10s. per C.

The 1582 book lists madder by the C and the bale, stating that 8 cwt = 1 bale. Madder is valued at 13s. 4d. per cwt. and mullmadder at 20s. per bale. The 1563/4 account has madder at 18s 8d per C and mul madder at 1s. per C. (8s. per bale), which are rather unusual values, not matching the rates books. The 1575/6 account lists madder at the same value as the rates book (13s. 4d. per C). These varying figures suggest that alongside madder and mul madder there was possibly another grade/grades of madder, not accounted for in the rates books.

**Madder, Green:** This may be the unprocessed root of the plant.

C (112 lb)

This is found in the 1540s at 1s. 8d. per C (6s. 8d. bale). It is therefore not the same as Mul madder, which is valued in both rates books at 20s. per bale.

**Madder, Mul:** The lowest grade of madder, obtained by grinding the loose fibres and fragments detached from the root during threshing. (OED)

**Mail** (Text: mayles): Can be a bag or a pack and also the metal rings used in armour. As this is valued by the lb, the latter, also called anlets, is more likely.

Lb

The 1507 book values 'Andeletts the c wayt at 33s. 4d. and values 'Maylle the xixM' (12,000) at 10s. The 1582 book refers to 'Andlets called mailles the li. 6d.)

The 'mayles./mailes' found in the accounts are always entered by the lb. This makes the latter definition more probable. Of the accounts under consideration here, mayles first occur in 1546, where they are valued at 6d. per lb. (the 1554 rates national rates book has mayles the pound at 4d.) Mail occurs again in the 1563/4 account, at 10d. per lb and in 1575/6 at 6d. per lb. It becomes a more frequent entry in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts where it pays only

<sup>50</sup> Willan, Tudor Book of Rates, p. 39.

half an ob. custom per lb, so valued at around 5d. per lb. the 1594/5 account also has two entries for 'red mail' which is valued at between 7d. and 10d. per lb.

**Mailing Cord** (Text: maylinge corde):

Piece

According to the dictionary for traded commodities, this is 'a cord for tying round a mail or for tying a mail to a horse. Mailing cord is sometimes found with the protective pack cloths as in 'two packe clothes two maylinge cordes' [Inventories (1639)], or accompanying the package it will be used to tie up as in 'Cloakebags & some malinge Corde' [Inventories (1617)]'.<sup>51</sup>

Not found in the OED.

Found in the 1600/1 account, valued at around 5d. per piece. (4 pieces pay 1d. custom)

**Malt** (Text: brac' bracy): Barley or other grain prepared for brewing, distilling, or vinegar-making, esp. by steeping, germinating, and kiln-drying.

1 wey = 6 quarters = 48 bushels (bushel = 64 pints)

Valued at 16s. 8d. per wey in the accounts prior to the rates revision. . The 1582 rates book values malt at 6s. 8d. per quart (£2 per wey). It is found in the 1575/6 account paying 4s. per wey custom (along with beans, barley and rye) which based on poundage at 1s. per pound works out at £4 per wey and sometimes the customs officer has inputted this value. In the case of grains however, after 1571, this is a meaningless figure. An act 'for the increase of tyllage' in that year decreed that it was lawful to transport any grain or wheat only from a port with a resident customs officer and that the new rate of custom would be 12d. per quarter for wheat and 8d per quarter for all other grains (peas, malt, beans, barley). The figures seen in the account reflect this custom and in some cases the officer has back projected to provide a value. This explains why sometimes the value in the accounts seems to be twice that of the rates book. In the datasets, the values given in the rates book have been imputed, to avoid confusion and maintain continuity through the accounts, for the sake of data analysis.<sup>52</sup>

**Mantles** (Text: mant'): A kind of blanket worn in rural Ireland and the Scottish Highlands.

These are valued at 3s. 4d. per piece in the accounts before 1558 and at 5s. per piece thereafter. The 1600/1 account records a 'dyed mantle' paying the same custom as the unspecified sort, and in 1575/6 grey mantles is also valued at 5s. per piece

Also noted in the 1550/1 account is 'Mantle Frieze Cloth'. Again this was imported from Ireland and is measured by the C (probably 120 yards). It is valued at 40s. per C.

**Mantles, Small** (mant' parvas): Possibly 'waist mantles'.

**Marmalade**: A preserve, consisting of a sweet, solid jelly.

Lb/roves

<sup>51</sup> From: 'Mace - Malting tub', *Dictionary of Traded Goods, 1550/1820* (2007). URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

<sup>52</sup> Statutes of the Realm, (1571) Vol. 4, chapter XIII, p. 547.

The 1507 Book lists ‘Marmelado the lb.’ At £4. This is presumably a mistake – the true price being 4d. In the accounts for the first half of the century marmalade is valued at 13s. 4d. per C (or just over 1d. per lb.) In the 1503 account it appears in ‘roves?’ which are valued at 2s. 6d. each/ and at 10s. per C. The 1582 book values ‘Marmelade’ at 8d. per lb. No marmalade is found in the accounts for the second half of the century, with the exception of one entry for 50 lbs of marmalade in 1594/5, which pays 2s. 4d. custom, so valued at £2 6s. 8d. This works out at around 11d. per lb custom value.

**Masts:** Upright pole or spar, fixed in the keel of a sailing ship in order to support the sails. *See* also coral above.

Masts are found in 1551 being imported on a Hanseatic ship at a value of 20s. per piece. These must have been of a particularly large size as ‘great masts’ are valued at only 6s. 8d. per piece in the 1582 rates book. Masts are found in the 1600/1 account at 6s. 8d.

**Mastic:** Aromatic gum or resin which exudes from the bark of the lentisk or mastic tree, *Pistacia*, used chiefly in making varnishes and in medicine.

Lb

Found in the 1516-17 account at 32s. 8d. per dozen lbs. The 1582 rates book lists ‘mastick the c. containing v.xx’ at £10

**Matches:** Piece of wick, cord, etc., used to fire a cannon or other firearm.

Lb

As ‘matches’ in the rates book are listed as ‘matches for gunners’ the above is presumably what is referred to. These occur in the 1594/5 account and are usually listed after gunpowder. They are valued at 16s. 8d. per C. These are listed in the the 1582 rates book at 2d. per lb.

**Match Cords** (Text: matye cordes): ‘piece of rope prepared as a slow match’. (OED)

C

Found in the 1594/5 account. These pay slightly more custom than matches (11d. per C), so value is around 18s. 4d. per C

**Meal:** The edible part of a grain or pulse, ground to powder or granules.

Found at 16s. 8d. per barrel in 1525/6.

**Measure:** A measure of woad etc., of varying quantity.

**Meat**

Barrel

Found at 5s. per barrel in the 1540s and at 6s. 8d. per barrel in 1525/6.

In 1550/1, Ox meat is found at 6s. 8d. barrel. Meat is also found in 1563/4, valued at £2 per hogshead.

**Meise:** *See* red herring.

**Mercury** (Text: argent 'vive, quicksilver): According to the OED, quicksilver is 'The metal mercury, so called from its liquid mobile form at ordinary temperatures'.

Argent Vive is found in the 1525/6 account at 5d. per lb and also at 15d. and 18d. per lb. It is found at 5d. per lb in the 1540s. Quick silver is found in the 1563/4 at 4s. per lb. It is listed however in the 1582 rates book at only 16d. per lb, and is found closer to this value in the 1600/1 account. This suggests that it may have been one of the commodities over valued in the rates revision and was subsequently re-valued.

**Merells:** The game piece used in nine men's morris.

Gross

Found at 4s. per gross in 1563/4 and 1594/5.

**Millstones:** A pair of circular stones which grind corn by the rotation of the upper stone on the lower.

Pair

Valued at 20s. per pair

**Millstones, Small called Doggstones:** A smaller version of the above.

Pair

Found at 20s. per pair in 1594/5.

**Molasses** (Text: malases): Thick, brown, uncrystallized syrup drained from raw sugar. (OED)

C

Found at a value of 10s. per C in 1594/5

**Morions, Plain** (Text: morines): A type of helmet without a visor.

Piece

Willan notes an error in the 1582 rates book, which has these at 2s. 6d. per piece.<sup>53</sup> They are valued at 3s. 4d. per piece in the 1558 rates book and are found at this value in the 1594/5 account.

## **N**

**Nails** (Text: nalls, nayles, nawls)

### **C**

The 1507 book lists various kinds of nails by the barrel and the 'small', but not by the C.

Found at 10d. per C in the 1540s. Given the low price, C may be 100 nails. 1582 book also lists various kinds of nails.

**Nail Blades** (Text: nalblade): Possibly a blade for cutting nails.

### **C**

Found in 1551, valued at 12d. per C.

**Nails, Board** (Text: borde naile, bord naylle, borde nayle): Presumably these were nails used mostly to nail down wooden boards. The OED suggests a brad or a large spike.

These are not listed in the 1582 rates book but occur frequently as an export to Ireland in the later accounts. They are valued at 6d. per C in 1575/6 and at 3s. 4d. per M in 1600/1 and in 1594/5.

**Nails, Fourpenny: A type of lath nail, used for 'Pantile Lathing',<sup>54</sup>**

### **M**

They are found in 1600/1, valued at 2s. 6d. per M.

**Nails, Lath: Lath is the term 'denoted a thin narrow strip of wood, used to form a groundwork on which to fix slates, tiles or the plaster of a wall or ceiling. A lath nail was a type of headed nail used for fixing lath to battens. There were two types of lath nails. The first were the 'reparation or lath nails, which are used for plain tile lathing, and outside and inside lathing for plastering'. The other sort were the four penny, and six penny nails, used for pantile lathing' as above. The former were smaller and seem to have been sometimes described as twopenny or threepenny lath nails.<sup>55</sup>**

**Nails, Rouze: These are most likely 'rove' nails. A rove, according to the OED is 'A small metal plate or ring on which the point of a nail or rivet is clinched or beaten down in the building of boats or small ships.**

<sup>53</sup> willan, p. 40.

<sup>54</sup> 'Lasch - Lazy back', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58807>, accessed: 16 October 2008.

<sup>55</sup> 'Lasch - Lazy back', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58807>, accessed: 16 October 2008.

They are found in the 1540s at 13s. 4d. to 15s. per C

*Nails, Rouze & Clenth: These are likely to be Rove and Clinch nails as found in the OED above.*

C

They are found in the 1540s at 13s. 4d to 15s. per C

Nails, Scopp: **Unidentified type of nail.**

M

Found in the 1594/5 account, pays 1d. custom per m so valued at around 20d. per M.

Nails, Yellow

Lb

Found in 1594/5 and valued at 6s. 8d. per dozen lbs.

Neck Bracelets: **An ornamental ring or band worn on the neck. (OED)**

Dozen

Found in 1594/5 account, valued at 10s. per dozen.

Necklaces: **‘An ornamental chain or string of jewels, precious metal, beads, etc., worn round the neck.’ Also ‘a lace or ribbon for the neck; a necktie’. (OED)**

Found in 1594/5 account, valued at 2s. 6d. per dozen. As this is the same value as the bugle necklace below, it may be of a similar type.

Necklaces, Bugle: **See bugle bead.**

Dozen

Found in 1600/1 as an export to Ireland. Valued at 2s. 6d. per dozen, based on custom payments.

**Needles** (Text: nelds): Valued by the clout which is a piece of cloth containing a certain number of pins or needles.

Clout

1507 book lists ‘nedylles the clowte’ but gives no valuation. The values vary in the earlier century from 8d. to 1s. 8d. per clout. The 1582 book lists needles at 20s. per dozen M. In the accounts however, needles are always listed by the clout and pay an ob. per clout custom, so

value is around 10d. per clout. The 1600/1 account also records a variety of needles of specified types, detailed below.

**Needles, *Jhus*:** Unidentified, but presumably specialist needles.

M

Found in 1600/1 valued at 3s. 2d. per M

**Needles, Spanish:** **Unidentified type of needle, but presumably of Spanish origin or style. They must also have been quite substantial in size as the OED provides a reference from Markam in 1615, which states that the best substance with which to make Angling hooks, is either old Spanish needles, or else strong wire.**<sup>56</sup>

Found in the 1600/1 account, valued at 33s. 4d. per M

**Needles, Yellow Band:** Unidentified but presumably specialist needles.

M

Found in the 1600/1 account, valued at around 3s. 4d. per M

**Nickel:** ‘A hard silvery-white chemical element, which is both malleable and ductile, and which usually occurs in combination with arsenic or sulphur’. As nickel was discovered from *kupfernickel* (copper of the devil ‘nick’) in 1751, this entry possibly relates to the latter, which had some uses for colouring glass green.

Piece

Not listed in the 1582 rates book. Found in the 1594/5 account, valued at 10d. per piece.

**Nutmeg** (Text: *nuttmygge*, *nutmigg*) A spice used for culinary and medicinal purposes.<sup>57</sup>

**Lb**

The 1507 book values ‘nottmygges the c weayte’ £5 (i.e. 1s. per lb. if cwt = 100 lbs).

Nutmeg is found in 1516/17 and 1525/6 at 1s. per lb. It is found in the 1540s accounts at both 20d. and 12d. per lb. The 1582 book values ‘nutmegs the c. containing v.xx’ at £16 13s. 4d. (3s. 4d. per lb) it is found in the later accounts at this value.

**O**

**Oakum** (*ocam*): The fibres of hemp or flax used for caulking the seams of ships and as a wound dressing.

C

<sup>56</sup> M. Gervase, *Country contentments in two bookes: the first containing the whole art of riding great horses, etc.: the second intituled The English huswife* 1615 (1631, 1649, 1668), from OED online.

<sup>57</sup> For detail on preparation for trade etc. see 'None so pretty - Nutmeg plums', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58828>, accessed 16 October 2008.

Valued at 3s. 4d. per C in the first half of the century and at 5s. per c thereafter, in line with the 1582 rates book, which values 'Ocam the C' (112 lbs) at 5s.

***Oclem pro seri***: Unidentified.

Dozen

Found in the 1525/6 account. Valued at 10d. per dozen

***Oclem Serptorn***: Unidentified.

Dozen

Found in the 1525/6 account. Valued at 15d. per dozen.

**Oars (ores): A long pole, widened and flattened at one end into a blade, used to propel a boat by pressure against the water.**

Dozen

Found in the accounts valued at 4s. per dozen in 1503/4 and at 5s. per dozen in 1575. the 1582 rates book lists 'ores the c. containing vi.xx' at £4 per C (8s. per dozen)

**Oar Ends: The blade of the oar, as above.**

Dozen

Valued at 8s. per dozen in 1600.

**Oar Staves: Stick of wood used to make oars.**

Dozen

Valued at 13s. 4d. per dozen in 1601, based on custom payments.

**Ochre: A mixture of varying proportions of clay and iron oxide used as a pigment.**

Clb

Ochre is a mixture of varying proportions of clay and iron oxide used as a pigment. It is found in the 1575/6, as an export to Ireland, valued at 3s. 4d. per C. The 1582 rates book simply values 'oker the barrel' at 13s. 4d. per barrel.

**Ochre, Yellow: As above, a yellow pigment, when the iron oxide is limonite.**

C

Found in the 1575/6, as an export to Ireland, valued at 10s. per C



**Oil, Bay: Made from bay or laurel berries and used as a perfumed oil.**

Lb

Bay oil is oil made from bay or laurel berries and used as a perfumed oil.

The 1582 book values 'oyle de bay' at 26s. 8d. per barrel, each barrel containing 100lb. (i.e. 3.2 d. per lb.)

The value varies in the accounts. It is found in 1525/6 at 7d. ob. per lb and in 1541/2 at 6d per lb. It has not been found in the accounts examined for the second half of the century.

**Oil, for lamps** (oleum pro lampadis)

Tun

Valued at 40s. per tun in the 1516/17 account.

**Oil, Olive** (Lat.: oleum; Text: olie, olii): This is olive oil which was also sometimes called 'wool oil' because its chief use was in the processing / cleaning of raw wool. *Olium* is sometimes specified as Seville Oil, which according to the OED is olive oil from Seville.

Tun

The 1507 book lists 'oyle called wolfe oyle' at £4 per tun. Oil is valued in the accounts prior to 1558 at £4 per tun. The 1582 book lists 'oyle olive the barrel' containing 27 gallons at 30s. *Olii* is recorded in all of the accounts in the second half of the century at £8 per tun. It is sometimes specified as Seville Oil, which according to the OED is olive oil from Seville.

**Oil, Petroleum: A viscous liquid, that is formed by the decomposition of organic matter buried in sediments, is present in some rock formations and is extracted and refined to produce fuels. (OED)**

Lb

Found in the 1516/17 account at 10d. per lb

***Oil, Punice: Unidentified.***

Tun

**This commodity only occurs in the 1600/1 account.<sup>58</sup> It is expensive, valued at £20 per tun and is imported to Bristol from France. It is not recorded in the 1582 rates book. One suggestion is that it could be Pomegranate seed oil as *punica* is the latin for pomegranate. There is also an interesting reference cited in the OED from Wornum, 'Punic wax (*cera Punica*) was the common yellow wax, purified and bleached by being boiled three times in sea-water, with a small quantity of nitre... This wax was the Greek substitute for oil in painters' colours'<sup>59</sup>. It could therefore be an oil used in painting. It**

<sup>58</sup> TNA E190/1132/11 f07r., f07v.

<sup>59</sup> R.N. Wornum (ed) Lectures on painting, by the Royal Academicians Barry, Opie, and Fuseli v.d. (1848) cited in the OED online.

**seems unusual however that either of these would be found in such large quantities as occur in the account.**

**Oil, Train** (Text: trayn): Train oil comes from boiling the blubber from whales or seals. May also be applied to fish oil – esp. cod liver oil in this period.

Tun

The value of train oil varies in the accounts from the first half of the century. For example in 1516/17, 'trayne' is valued at 46s. 8d. tun. In the 1540s, it is found at 53s. 4d. or 70s. per tun and in 1550/1 it is found at £4 and £5 a tun. In the accounts examined for the second half of the century, train oil is always valued at £5 per tun, as in the 1582 rates book.

**Olives** (Text: oil berries): Shipped in barrels.

Little barrel/hogshead

Found in the 1525/6 account listed as olives and masys at 2s. 6d. per lb. In the 1540s, olives are recorded at 6s. 8d. per 'little barrel' and at 20s. per hogshead.

The 1582 book values 'olives the hogshed' 53s. 4d. Olives are found at this value in the 1575/6 account. There are none recorded in the 1594/5 06 1600/1 accounts.

**Onions: Found in bunches, ropes and barrels. Onion seed in contrast is found by the C weight.**

Rope/barrel

The 1507 book values 'c bunches' of onions at 6s. 8d. and barrels at 8d.

They are found in the 1540s at 1.2d per rope.

The 1582 book values 'c bunches containing v.xx' at 8s. 4d. and the barrel at 16d. They are found however in the 1600/1 account paying 3d. custom per barrel as an export to Ireland. The value is therefore 5s. per barrel.

**Oranges (orynges)**

Ton, M (12 M = 1 ton)

Found in the accounts up to the 1550s at 3s. 4d. per M. The 1582 book values 'orenges the M' 6s. 8d.' They are found at this value in 1600/1.

Oranges and Lemons

M

Listed together in the 1594/5 account at 6s. 8d. per M.

**Orchil (Text: orrchall, archal): a 'red or violet dye prepared from certain lichens'. (OED)**

C/last

The 1507 book values 'ortshall the c wayte' 20s. and the barrel 13s. 4d.

It is found in the accounts at 13s. 4d. per C before the 1558 rates rise.

The 1582 book values 'orchall the c. containing' 112 lb at 20s. and notes that a last contains 3 C. Orchil is found in the later accounts at 20s. per C. It is often shipped by the firkin which usually contains 1 C.

***Orchement:* Unidentified. It does not appear to be Orpiment or Ornament as in the rates book, as its value is much higher.**

Lb

Found in the 1563/4 account, valued at 8d. per lb. It does not appear to be Orpiment or Ornament as in the rates book, as the value for orchement is much higher (£3 13s. 4d. per C?)

**Organ Pipes (old): Generally made out of metal or wood, these are the sound producing elements of a pipe organ.**

Piece

The 1550/1 account records three 'olde organ pyppes' being shipped to the continent, valued at 40s. for 3.

**Pane:** A bundle of varying from 30 to 100 skins.

Pans:

Lb

Pans are listed in the accounts by their weight. For example in the 1550/1 account there is '1 pan waying 10lb' listed at a value of 3s. 4d.

**Pans, Brass: As above.**

Piece/C

Valued at 4s. per pan in the 1540s accounts.

Also entered as '1 C pan brass', which refers to the weight of the pan. In 1575/6 a 20lb brass pan is valued at 6s. 8d., a 40lb pan is valued at 16s. 8d. and a 60lb pan is valued at 20s.

**Pans, Dripping: Pan used to catch the 'dripping' from roasting meat.**

Piece/C

The 1507 book values 'droppyn pans of yerne the c wyte' 10s.

These are valued at 10d. per pan in the 1540s.

The 1582 book has a cross-reference entry for ‘pannes look in dripping, frying and warming pannes’. However, while there are entries for frying and warming pans, there is not one for ‘dripping’. The 1594/5 account records a dozen ‘plate dripping pans’ valued at 5s.

**Pans, Frying: A shallow pan, usually of iron, with a long handle, in which food is fried.**

## C

Valued at 13s. 4d. per C in 1594/5, as in the 1582 rates book. Presumably cwt refers to the weight of the pan, as in the 1550/1 account.

**Paper: Usually either brown or white and valued by the ream, which according to the 1582 rates book is 20 quires.**

## Ream

The 1507 book has entries for ‘paper called wyte’ by the bale and ream, but gives no valuation. Also has an entry for ‘paper called browne the bundelle’ 8d.

Paper is listed in the 1540s at 1s. 8d. per ream and in 1563/4 and 1575/6 at 2s. 8d. per ream.

The 1582 book lists ‘paper the bale containing x remes’ 26s. 8d. (i.e. 2s. 8d. per ream). It also notes that a ream contains xx quires’. The 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts show a higher value for white paper, which pays 2d. custom per ream and so is valued at 3s. 4d.

**Paper, Brown: A less expensive type of paper than the white variety.**

## Ream

Brown paper is much less expensive in the accounts than white, and pays only an ob. custom per ream, giving it a value of between 5d. and 10d. per ream. Brown paper is listed at 8d. per bundle in the 1582 rates book.

**Paper, Gold: Presumably this is a paper dyed a gold/yellow colour or embossed with gold.**

## Dozen

Valued at 6s. 8d. per dozen in 1594/5.

The account also listed painted paper at 6s. 8d. per ream. These are not found in the 1582 rates book. It does however list ‘paper royall the reme’ at 6s. 8d. per ream.

**Parchment Skins: Piece of animal skin, esp. from a sheep or goat, dressed and prepared as a surface for writing.**

## Dozen

Usually valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts.

**Peas** (Lat.: pisum; Text: pisar, pis’): Any of the seeds of the plant *Pisum sativum* which grow in elongated pods and are eaten as a vegetable, or as a pulse when dried.

## Wey

Valued at 16s. 8d. per wey in 1525/6.

**Pect:** In most cases ‘pect’ are combs, and are found by the dozen. They also occur however by the bale. In 1516 a bale of ‘pect’ is valued at 20s. These are possibly reeds from the Latin *pectin*. Reeds are listed in the 1582 rates book, but by the C/M. Nevertheless this seems a possible explanation as a bale is a typical unit for hay etc.

**Penners:** A metal or leather case for holding pens.

## Dozen

Valuations in the first half of the century vary from 5d. to 1s. 5d. per dozen. The 1582 book values Penners, both with inkhorns and without, at 10s. per gross (10d. per dozen). They are found in the 1575/6, 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts at this value.

**Pepper** (Lat. Piper; Text: piperis): Spice derived from the peppercorns of the pepper plant.

## Lb/C

The 1507 book values pepper at £6 per ‘c wayte’ (1s. per lb if 120 lbs). Note that in 1516 a C is valued at £5 and C appears to be 100 lb weight. 1lb valued at 1s. It is also valued at 1s. per lb in the 1540s accounts. The 1582 book values pepper at 20d. per lb and notes that a ‘c pound’ contains 100 lbs. Pepper is found in the 1575/6, 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts at 20d. per lb.

**Percular:** Unidentified.

## Dozen

This is found in the 1540s and is valued at 1s. 8d. per gross but this is variable.

**Perfume:** Uncertain if this is liquid based or insense.

## Lb

Valued at 1s. 9d. per lb in 1546.

**Petticoat:** A women’s light loose undergarment in the form of a shirt or dress.

## Dozen

Valued at 24s. per dozen in 1551 These are probably cotton or wool, which are listed at 30s. per dozen in the 1582 rates book. The book also lists a silk petticoat at £12 per dozen.

## Pewter

## C/Lb.

Valued at 4d. per lb in the 1540s and at 33s. 4d. per C in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts. Also listings for broken pewter. There are 100lbs. in a C.

**Pewter Salt: As this is found by the dozen, it may relate to a pewter container for salt.**

Dozen

Valued at 5s. per dozen in 1575/6

**Pile Weights: A series of brass weights, fitting one within another.** <sup>60</sup>

Lb

They occur in the 1594/5 account, where 2lb pay 1d. customs, so the value is around 10d. per lb. The 1600/1 account records 'brass weights' which are presumably the same thing as the 1582 book lists 'brasse weights called pile weights the c. containing v.xx xii li' at 1s.

***Pilus Tinctus***: There is uncertainty regarding the exact meaning of this term. Wendy Childs and Elenor Carus-Wilson have both interpreted it as 'dyed hair', possibly a reference to dyed wool. Longfield on the other hand has interpreted it as dyed cloth. Given that it is always found by the lb, the former explanation seems more likely. A further suggestion is that it is a type of coloured thread (phili) which can also be found by the lb. *Pils* have also been found in the accounts and have been translated as caps (see caps above). It is possible that pilors tinct may be a coloured material used in cap making.

Lb

It is valued at 40s. per C (120lb) This commodity occurs in the 1503/4, 1516/17 and 1525/6 accounts.

Pins

M

Valued at 3d. per M in the first half of the century.

The 1582 book values 'pinnes the dosen M' 3s. 4d. (3.33 d per M) They are found at this value in the accounts.

Pins, Flanders

Dozen

Found in 1516/17, valued at 2s. per dozen

**Pin-Wheel**: A revolving circular box or drum with wooden pins projecting from the inner surface, in which hides are washed, softened in the process of leather making.

Unit unknown.

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<sup>60</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 10.

Found in the 1594/5 account, no value available.

**Pipe:** A cask; hence a measure. A pipe of wine is equal to half a tun. Its varies with other commodities.

**Pipe Boards:** **These are the timber pieces used to make a pipe cask.**

M

Valued in 1516/17 at 16s. 8d. per M.

**Pipe Staves:** **Similar to the above.**

C

Valued at 5s. per C in 1575/6

**Pipes, Tobacco:** **Probably made of clay or wood.**

Dozen

These don't occur in the accounts considered here before 1600. In that year, three dozen tobacco pipes paid an ob. custom, so the approximate customs value is 3s. 4d. per gross.

**Pitch (Text: piche, pytche, pytch, pitche, piche, pich):** **'A tenacious resinous substance of a black or black-brown colour, hard when cold, but becoming a thick, semi-viscid liquid when heated. It was used among other things to stop the seams of ships after caulking and to protect wood from moisture. It was also used medicinally to treat coughs, arthritis, and as an ingredient of ointments.'**<sup>61</sup>

Last/C/Cake

The 1507 book values 'pyche the last' 20s. (1s. 8d. per barrel). It is found in the accounts at 26s. 8d. per tun/ton in the first half of the century and at 40s. per ton in 1563/4.

The 1582 book values 'pitch and tar the last containing xii barrels' 40s.

In the later accounts (1594/5, 1600/1), pitch is recorded (often with Rosin) by the cake, at 3s. 4d. per cake. There are entries for 'pice', which is probably pitch, in the 1575/6 account at £3 6s. 8d. per tun/ton.

**Pitch, Hearth:** **May be the same as pitch as it has the same value.**

Ton/Cake

Not listed in 1582 book. It is found in the 1525/6 account, where twelve of an unspecified unit (perhaps C) is valued at 10s. It is also found in the 1575/6 account as an import from Spain at 40s. per ton, and in the 1600/1 account, by the cake at 3s. 4d. per cake, the same value as ordinary pitch.

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<sup>61</sup> 'Pine - Pitchfork', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58842>, accessed 16 October 2008.

**Plate Locks:** **Probably refers to a lock made from metal plate.**

Dozen

Probably refers to a lock made from metal plate.

Found in the 1600/1 account, valued at 2s. 6d. per dozen, based on customs payments.

**Playing Cards** (Text: *cardes pro ludendo*, *cart pict'* (picture): Set or pack of cards, used in playing various games.

Dozen

The 1507 rates book values 'playeng cardes the grosse' at £4. This seems unrealistically high, as it would work out at more than 6d. per card, about six times the price of a whole primer.

Cards are listed at 10d. to 1s. 3d. per dozen in the 1540s accounts and at 20s. per gross in the 1582 rates book, confirmed by entries in the later port books. This all suggests the price given in the 1507 book is a mistake.

**Playing Tables:** **Table on which games are played;. one which has a playing board inlaid on its surface.**

Dozen

1582 book list various types but the cheapest is 8s. per dozen. Listed in the 1595 account at 5s. per 6 pairs, ie per dozen.

**Pocket:** Sack or bag, sometimes used as a measure of quantity, particularly for hops, where it equals 3C.

**Points** (Lat.: *ligula*; Text: *ligul'*, laces): 'A tagged lace or cord, of twisted yarn, silk, or leather, for attaching the hose to the doublet, lacing a bodice, and fastening various parts where buttons are now used'. A large variety of types are found.

'Laces' have been entered in the datasets as 'points', since, while the term is not used anymore, it was the term used at the time to describe an item of dress-ware that is not used today. A slight difficulty with this however is that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish in the later accounts between laces (points) and lace. For example chain lace and statute lace could be laces or lace, although the dictionary of traded goods suggests that chain lace is a cord.

The 1507 rates book values 'poynts the small grosse' at 5d. and the 'grett grosse' at 5s. The 1582 book values 'points the great groce containing xii small' 10s. There is therefore 12 small gross in a great gross. A small gross is presumably 12 dozen pieces.

The accounts up to 1550/1 simply list points or ligulas at 1s. per gross. There are also a small number of entries for silk points. The fact that these points are all listed at the same value suggests a genuine lack of variety and not merely a less specific method of recording than the accounts from 1575 onwards, which list a great variety of points/laces as detailed below. The 1563/4 lists points by the small or great gross at 8d. per small gross and 8s. per large gross and also has leather and red points/laces.



**Points, Broad 1d.** (Text: id broad lace, peny bread lace)

Dozen

This occurs in the 1594/5 account. It looks like penny laces or points. It could however be a broad type of lace but this would mean that dozen is a 'dozen yards' and 10d. seems like too low a value for a dozen yards of lace. Lace is listed in the 1582 rates book (bone lace) and is valued there at 6s. 8d. per dozen yards. The 1594/5 account also list 'peny bread lace' at a value of 6s. 8d. per lb. This is probably the same commodity and is most likely to be a type of point.

**Points, Bugle** (bugle lace)

Dozen

As a bugle is a tube shaped bead used in ornamental garments, bugle lace is unlikely to be 'lace' but is probably laces or points, perhaps attached in some manner to a bugle bead. These occur in 1594/5 and pay 1d per dozen custom so are valued at around 20d. per dozen.

**Points, Copper** (copper lace)<sup>62</sup>

Ounce

Twelve ounces of copper points paid 4d. custom in 1600/1 and is therefore valued for customs purposes at around 6s. 8d.

**Points, Coarse** (coarse lace)

Lb

Valued at 4s. per lb in 1594/5 based on customs valuations. Again it is unclear if these are points/laces or lace. They are not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Points, Crewel** (cruel lace)

Gross

Probably points/laces made from crewel yarn. Valued at 6s. 8d. per gross in 1594/5.

**Points, Green** (greene lace)

Lb

Valued at 6d. 8d. per lb in 1594/5. The more expensive value may mean that these are a type of lace and not laces/points.

**Points, Inkle** (ynkle pointe)

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<sup>62</sup> E190/1132/11 f37v.

### Gross

Valued at around 10d. per gross in 1600/1 based on customs payments.

### **Points, Leather** (leather points/laces)

#### Gross

Valued at 20d. per gross in 1563/4. Pays an ob or half an ob custom per gross in the 1600/1 account so valued at between 5-10d. per gross. The account also lists 'single leather points' paying an ob custom per gross. Not listed in the 1582 rates book.

### **Points, Paris Red**

#### Gross

Valued at 20d. per gross in 1563/4. These occur in the 1575/6 account and are valued at 8d. per gross.

### **Points, Red**

#### Small gross

Valued at around 20d. per small gross in 1594/5, based on customs payments.

### **Points, Saye** (saye lace)

#### Gross

Points/laces made from saye. Valued at 6s. 8d. per gross in 1594/5

### **Points, Silk** (silke poynte, ligulas serc)

#### Gross/lb

Valued in the 1540s at 1s. 8d. to 2s. per gross. In 1575, these are valued at 12s. per lb and in 1600/1 they pay 1d. custom per gross and are therefore valued at around 20d. per gross.

### **Points, Thread**

#### Gross

Generally pays an ob. per gross (small) custom. The value is therefore about 10d. per gross, which is the same as the 1582 rates book. The 1600 account has 'thread points' and 'single thread points' but they both pay the same custom.

### **Points, White Leather**

#### Gross

These also pay an ob. custom per gross, so value is around 10d. per gross in 1600/1.

**Porpoise** (Text: porpas): Any of various small delphinoid whales of the family Phocoenidae, characterized by a blunt, rounded snout and usually a low, triangular dorsal fin. (OED)

Barrel

Valued at 6s. 8d. per barrel in 1550/1. Also in 1525/6, four pieces of 'littyl porpas' are valued at the same amount. Presumably the porpoise shipped by the barrel is porpoise meat, while those shipped by the piece are intact.

**Portmanteau** (porteos, portmantial, port manters): A case or bag for carrying clothing and other belongings when travelling.

Piece

Valued at around 20d. each based on custom payments in 1594/5. These portmantial are probably portmanteau, but presumably, based on the value they are not made of leather.

**Potol:** A 'pottle' can be a pot or vessel capable of holding a pottle (i.e. half a gallon) of liquid. (OED)

Dozen

Valued at 10d. per dozen in the 1540s

### **Pots, Brass**

Piece

These are recorded similarly to pans, so probably 'cxx libr pott brasse' for example means brass pots/pot weighing 120 lbs. They are valued in 1575 at 33s. 4d. each for 100lb, 40s. for 120lb and 50s. for 150lbs.

### **Pots, Iron**

Dozen

Valued at 10s. per dozen in the 1594/5 account. Iron pots are listed in the 1582 rates book at the same value.

### **Pots, Stone Uncovered**

C

Valued at 5s. per C in 1600/1.

**Prunes:** Dried plums, but the term was sometimes used for fresh fruit also.<sup>63</sup> They are shipped in ‘punchons’ and each punchon holds 4 C.

C

Valued at 6s. 8d. per C and at 10s. per C in the later accounts. They are usually shipped in a puncheon, which according to Zupko is a large wooden vessel, resembling a cask, used for several different commodities.<sup>64</sup> The 1582 book lists ‘prunes the C’ containing 112 lb. at 10s. per C. Listed in 1591 and 1595 per C at 10s. They are shipped in ‘punchons’ and each punchon holds 4 C.

**Pullock** (Text: pullocke): The OED lists pellock or pullock as ‘A dolphin, porpoise, or similar marine animal. This however may also refer to ‘Pollack’ which the OED defines as any of several edible marine fishes having a protruding lower jaw, now or formerly included in the genus *Pollachius*’, which includes such fish as coal-fish, also found in the accounts.

C (lbs?)

Valued at 5s. per C in 1525/6.

**Puncheon:** Large wooden vessel, resembling a cask, used for several different commodities.<sup>65</sup>

**Purses** (Lat.: crumena; Text: purs’ / cruminar): Money bag or receptacle for money. Various types exist, defined by the fabric used, or the style/origin/utilisation of the purse, for example ‘Venice purses’ and ‘pin purses’.

Dozen

1540s 4d. -6d. per dozen. They are found in the 1540s at values from 4d. -6d. per dozen and in the 1594/5 account at 3s. 4d. per dozen. The 1582 book lists purses for children at 15s. per gross and various types of ‘Venice purses’ for 12s. to 40s. the dozen, depending on whether they were made from leather, embroidered leather or embroidered silk.

### **Purses, Pin**

Dozen

Valued in 1594/5 at 3s. 4d. per dozen.

### **Purses, Taffeta**

Piece

These are valued at around 10d. each in 1594/5.

<sup>63</sup> ‘Precipitate - Prussian blue’, *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58847>, accessed 16 October 2008.

<sup>64</sup> Zupko, *Dictionary of Weights and Measures*, p. 329.

<sup>65</sup> Zupko, *Dictionary of Weights and Measures*, p. 329.

## Q

**Quadraer:** Unidentified. A possibility is that this is quartern wire, which the dictionary of traded goods suggests was a fine wire, valued by the lb like virginal wire.<sup>66</sup>

It is valued at 8d. per C in the 1540s. The 1582 booke contains a reference to 'Quatuor semini frigidorum' at 4s. the lb, however, Willan did not know what it was. The large difference in price suggests that this is a different commodity in any case.

**Quarter:** The fourth part of some usual measure.

**Quern Stones:** Stones for grinding grain.

Pair/Last (12 pairs)

Found in 1594/5 at £1 16s. 8d. for 11 pairs which works out as the same value given in the 1582 rates book (40s. per last ie. 12 pairs)

In 1550/1 a last of quern stones is recorded at 10s., size unknown, and in 1575, a last is valued at 12s., which fits with neither the value for the 'great' or 'small' sort in the 1582 rates book.

**Quintal** (Text: kindal): Equal to a hundredweight.<sup>67</sup> Found as a measurement for iron.

**Raisins** (Text: resyns, resons, raisinges): Partially dried fruit of some varieties of grape. Listed in the 1582 rates book as 'Great' raisins, a term sometimes used to distinguish between raisins and 'Corinths' or currants.

Ton

Raisins are valued in the accounts before the rates increase at £2 per ton. A ton consisted of 24 pieces. After this, the customs value was raised to £6 per ton for 'great' raisins, or 5s. per piece.

**Raisins, Gallipola:** Probably raisins from Gallipoli in Turkey.

## C

Found in the 1594/5 account and valued at the same price as 'great' raisins.

**Raisins, Malaga:** Raisins from Malaga, Spain. The 'dictionary of traded goods' suggests that these were 'Raisins of the Sun', which were probably also produced in other areas.<sup>68</sup> The accounts suggest otherwise however as Malaga raisins are valued at 6s. 8d. per C, the same as 'great' raisins, while raisins of the sun or sundried raisins are valued at 16s. 8d. per C.

**Raisins, Rotta:** Unidentified.

<sup>66</sup> 'Quadrille box - Quoiler', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58849>, accessed 16 October 2008.

<sup>67</sup> Zupko, *Dictionary of Weights and Measures*, p. 342.

<sup>68</sup> 'Rabbeting plane - Ranter', *Dictionary of Traded Goods*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=58850>, accessed 16 October 2008.

Ton, C, piece

These are not listed in the 1582 rates book. they are found with 'shoeris' raisins in the 1594/5 account. The dictionary of traded goods refers to 'Roate' raisins but doesn't supply a definition.

Valued at the same price as 'great' raisins.

**Raisins, *Shoeris*** (sheres, shoeris): Unidentified.

Piece

Valued at 5s. per piece in 1594/5.

**Raisins, of the Sun** (Text: raysons of the sunne, raisins solis): Sundried raisins.

C (112 lb.)

Valued at 16s. 8d. per C.

**Ream:** *See* paper.

**Ribbons** (Text: rybbands): Various types found. *See* Caddis, Check, Saye, Crewell.

Dozen (presumably pieces) although 'peny ribbon' is valued by the lb.

Price for unspecified ribbon varies. The 1540s accounts have ribbons at 1s. 8d. per dozen, while in 1575/6 a dozen is valued at a lower 12d. per dozen.

The 1582 book lists 'cap ribband' and 'Venice Riband' at 26s. 8d. per dozen and also 'Thred ribond' at 6s. 8d. per dozen.

**Ribbon, Caddis**

Dozen

1s. 6d. per dozen in 1540s.

**Ribbon, Check**

Dozen

Found in the 1600/1 account. A gross is probably valued at around 6s. 8d. based on customs payments.

**Ribbon, Crewell** (Cruell): Crewell is a worsted yarn.

Piece

Valued at around 10d. per piece in 1594/5.

### **Ribbon, de fiba (?)**

Gross

Found in 1516/17 at 4s. per gross

### **Ribbon, Penny Broad** (peny, 1d.) lb

Valued at around 6s. 8d. per lb in 1594/5.

### **Ribbon, Saye**

Dozen

Valued in the 1540s at 4s. per dozen.

### **Ribbon, Silk**

Gross

Valued at around 16s. 4d. per gross in 1594/5.

**Rice:** Food grain obtained from the seed of the plant *Oryza sativa*.

C (lb)

Listed in the 1582 book at 16s. for a clb, containing 112 lbs. It is found in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts paying 10d. custom per C, which works out at a value of 16s. 8d. per C. It is sometimes entered in the account books by the 'bag' with no volume given. The value of a bag is 26s. 8d. Rice is not found in the accounts that we have studied before 1575/6. In the 1575/6 account it is entered at two different values, 20s. per C and 10s. per C, for some inexplicable reason.

**Rings, Copper:** Probably ornamental rings as the 1582 book lists 'copper rings fine with stones the dozen'.

Dozen

Valued at 4d. per dozen in the 1540s. The 1582 book lists 'copper rings fine with stones the dozen' 3s. 4d. per dozen and also 'copper chaines the groce' 4s. (i.e. 4d. per dozen)

**Rope:** Usually made of twisted strands of hemp, flax, or other fibrous material, but also of strips of hide, pliant twigs, metal wire. (OED)

C

Valued at 13s. 4d. per C in 1540s and at 16s. 8d. for rope and white rope in 1595/5.

**Rosin** (Text: rozen, rosin, rosen): Obtained as a residue of the distillation of oil of turpentine from crude turpentine and used along with pitch on ships as a sealant / preservative. It was also an ingredient of soap, and was used to treat coughs, arthritis, and as an ingredient of ointments. It was most likely traded in its solid form, as the later accounts mostly contain rosin by the cake.

C/Cake

Valued in the earlier accounts (up to 1550/1) at 26s. 8d. per ton (20d per C). It is occasionally found at a higher value of £2 per ton.<sup>69</sup> In 1575/6, it is valued also at £2 per ton. In the 1595/5 and 1600/1 accounts, rosin is found by the cake. A cake paid 2d. custom and so is valued at 3s. 4d. The accounts state that there were 20 cakes to a ton, so a ton is therefore valued at £3 6s. 8d. The cake found in these accounts is probably the 'peece' found in the 1582 rates book as both are valued at 3s. 4d.

**Rugg:** A type of rough woollen blanket from Ireland.

Piece/yard

According to a list of rates from (?) 1519, Ruggs are the same as, or similar to, Caddows.<sup>70</sup> In the accounts they are both valued at 10s. a piece, along with coverings, blankets and coverlettes. They are imported exclusively from Ireland.

**Rye:** Food-grain obtained from the plant *Secale cereale*.

1 wey = 6 quarters = 48 bushels (bushel = 64 pints)

Valued at 16s. 8d. per wey in the earlier accounts. It is not listed in 1563/4 but is listed in 1575/6 as paying 40s.. custom per 60 quart/8d.

**Rye Meal:** Ground Rye with the bran bolted out.

Last

Valued at 16s. 6d. per last.

## **S**

**Saddle** (Text: sadles): Seat for a horse rider with side flaps and fitted with girths and stirrups.

Piece

Valued at 6s. 8d. each in 1575/6.

**Saffron** (Lat.: croceus; Text: croc'): An orange-yellow spice, used also as a medicine and a dyestuff, made from the dried stigmas of the crocus.

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<sup>69</sup> TNA E122/22/4 f17r.

<sup>70</sup> Henry Bush, p. 53.



Lb.

Valued at 10s. per lb pre 1558. The 1582 book values 'saffrone' at 13s. 4d. per lb, and it pays 8d. per lb custom in the later accounts which works out at this value.

**Sails** (sels): Pieces of canvas or other strong textile material fastened to the masts, spars or stays of a vessel, so as to catch the wind and cause it to move through the water. The accounts also contain 'Sail Yardys' which is probably the nautical term for the yards (spars) to which a sail is fixed. (See OED)

Valued at 6s. 8d. per piece in the 1540s. In 1551, 'Sail Yardys' are 10s. per (?) piece. Not listed in the 1582 rates book. This value doesn't seem high enough to make this a ships sail, although the 'sail yardys' probably indicates that this is yards of the material used to make a sail.

**Salt** (Lat.: sal; Text: sal, sel, sawlte): Listed sometimes as Bay salt, which is from Borgneuf Bay, south of the Loire; made by evaporation, it produces large crystals or white salt, which is prepared and refined mainly for household use.

Ton/Wey/Bushel

1507 book lists 'sawlte the waye' 13s. 4d.

Valued at 10s. per ton in the earlier accounts, this figure doubling to 20s. per ton after 1558.

Salt in the accounts is almost always listed by the ton and not the wey, as listed in the rates book. It is not usually specified by type, though in 1595 there is a listing for 'French salt' which is also valued at 20s. per ton. The 1582 book lists 'salt bay the way containing xl bushels' 20s. Bay salt is salt from Borgneuf Bay, south of the Loire. Made by evaporation, it produces large crystals. It also lists 'Salte white, the way' valued at 26s. 8d. (So 1 wey = 2560 pints, making it 25% greater than a tun (2016 pints).

**Sandlewood**: A tree of India which has a hard fragrant timber, used as a dyewood and in medicine.

Lb

Listed in the later accounts as paying both 1d. and an ob. custom per lb so difficult to work out exact value. Probably 10-20 d. per lb value. This difference in apparent value could also be the distinction between the white and yellow varieties as listed in the 1582 rates book, which lists yellow saunders at 16d. per lb and white at 20d. per lb.

**Saws**: Sometimes specified as 'hand saws' which were carpenters saws, according to the 1582 rates book.

Dozen

Valued at 16s. per dozen, the 1582 rates book doesn't list any saws at this value. Presumably these are larger than 'hand saws' and therefore more expensive.

**Saw Files**: A file specially adapted for sharpening the teeth of saws.

## Dozen

Valued at 18d. per dozen in 1576.

## Saws, Hand

## Dozen

Valued at 6s. per dozen in 1576 and at around 3s. 4d. in 1600/1. the 1582 rates book lists 'sawes for carpenters, called hand saws' at 3s. 4d. per dozen and also 'sawes called two hand sawes the dozen' at 6s. 8d.

**Scabbard** (Text: scaberd): A cover for the blade of a sword or dagger.

## Dozen

Valued at 2s. per dozen in 1576.

**Scissors** (Text: siseres): Cutting instrument consisting of a pair of handled blades.

## Dozen

Valued at 2s. 6d. per dozen in 1575/6.

**Scrofe** (Text: scrof): Perhaps refuse wool but as it's valued higher than wool flocks it seems unlikely.

## Lb

Valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen lbs in 1503/4 and at 10s. per C in 1525/6.

**Scythes** (Text: sithes): Tool used for cutting crops such as grass or corn with a long curved blade. These could also be 'sithes' which the OED defines as milk strainers.

## Piece

The 1507 book lists 'scythes the sheffe' 6s. 8d. A sheaf if 'a bundle of iron or steel containing a definite number of gads' (OED). Valued at 1s. 8d. per piece in 1540s. not listed in 1582 book. Sithes are valued at around 10s. per dozen in 1600/1.

**Sea Horse Teeth: Hippopotamus teeth, traded for their ivory.**

Jobson, describing a hippopotamus, which he called a "sea-horse"- *"He is in fashion of body a compleat horse, as round buttock'd as a horse of service, and in his whole body answerable; his head like unto a horse with short eares, but palpably appearing, which he wags and stirres as he shews himself, onely toward his mouth he growes broade downe like a bull, and*

*hath two teeth standing right before upon his lower choppe, which are great and dangerous."*  
(The Golden Trade, 1623)<sup>71</sup>

Bossewell- *"This water-horse of the sea is called a hippotame, for that he is like a horse in back, mayne, and neying: rostro resupinato a primis dentibus: causa tortuosa, ungulis binis. He abideth in the waters on the day, and eateth corn by night et hunc Nilus gignit."* (Works of Armorie, 1589)

**Seals** (Text: seles, seale fish): In the 16<sup>th</sup> century seals were sometimes described as a type of fish, along with porpoises.

Piece

1582 book lists 'seale fish' at 13s. 4d. per fish. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century seals were sometimes described as a type of fish, along with porpoises.

**Seal Pigs: Possibly also seals, although they are half the value of seals in the accounts.**

Piece

**Seeds, Caraway** (Text: caraweyes): Small fruits from the plant *Carum Carui*. Used medicinally and as a spice.

Lb

Valued at 20d. per lb in the 1575/6 account.

**Seed, Cumin (Text: commenseed, cummin): Seed of a plant cultivated in the Levant for its fruit, which possesses aromatic and carminative qualities.**

Dozen (Lbs)

Cumin seed is found in the 1595/5 and 1600/1 accounts, although it is likely that the cumin found in the accounts up until this is also seed. The 1582 book values 'comine' at 26s. 8d. per 112 lb, noting 1 bale – 3 C. and doesn't specify that this is seeds, but in the 1600/1 account a C of cumin seed is found at the same value.

Cumin is found at 3s. 4d. per dozen in 1563/4 and 1575/6 and at 1s. 4d. per dozen in the 1540s but values for this commodity tend to vary.

**Seed Fennel: *Fæniculum vulgare*, cultivated chiefly for its use in cookery.**

Lb

Valued at 2d. per lb in 1563.

**Seed, Leek** (Text: licke, leeke sede): A culinary herb.

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<sup>71</sup> <http://www.eaudrey.com/myth/seahorse.htm>

**Lb**

Valued at 10s. per dozen lbs in 1540s and at 6s. 8d. per dozen in 1600/1. Not listed in 1582 rates book.

**Seed, Mustard:** Seed of a mustard plant.

**Bushel**

Found at a value of 20d. per bushel in 1595/5, based on custom payments.

**Seed, Onion** (Text: yunion): Seeds imported to grow onions, a culinary vegetable.

**Lb.**

1507 book lists 'onyons sede' the c wayte at 20s. (c.2d. per lb.). listed at both 8s. 4d. and 10s. per dozen in 1540s

The 1582 book lists 'onyon seed' the C of 112lb at 33s. 4d. (c.3.5d. per lb.) which is the value at which it occurs in the later accounts.

**Seed, Porcelic:** Perhaps parsnip or parsley seed.

**Lb**

Valued at 3d. per lb in 1563. Only occurs in this account.

**Senna** (Text: senys, senie): A large genus of flowering trees, growing in warm climates. The senna in the accounts is probably a laxative prepared from the dried pods of the trees.

**Lb**

The 1507 book lists 'sene the c wyght' £3 (c. 7d. per lb, if c equals 100). The value varies in the pre- 1558 accounts from 4d. to 10d. per lb. The 1582 book lists 'senie the C containing v.xx' at £7 10s.

**Serches:** Sieves or strainers.

**Dozen**

Valued at 4s. per dozen in 1516/17 and at 4s. 2d. in the accounts between 1517 and the 1550s. Serches or serces occur in the later accounts at both 6s. 8d. per dozen or 10s. per dozen. There is one entry for serces valued by the lb. in the 1600/1 account, which suggests that a dozen may consist of 12 lbs. There are a few possible explanations for the term. The OED lists Sark or Serc 'as garment worn next the skin; a shirt or chemise'. It is very unlikely however that such a commodity would be found by the lb. Another possibility is that it is serge cloth, but the fact that serge cloth turns up as 'sarge' in the same accounts as serches makes this also very unlikely. The most likely explanation, particularly as serches always arrive as a minor part of an iron consignment from the Spanish Basque region, is that they are sieves. The OED has searce as a sieve or strainer, and it appears to have been often written as serche or sarch.

This explanation would also help to explain the presence of ‘hopes for serches’ in the 1563/4 account, which are probably hoops of some type.

**Seron:** A bale or package made up in an animal's hide, usually of soap.

**Setting Stick:** stick used for making holes for ‘setting’ or planting.

Dozen

Valued at around 3s. 4d. per dozen in 1595/5.

**Sheets:** these are bed sheets as they are found by the pair. Coarse sheets are possibly hempen and Holland sheets, which are more expensive, are made from Holland linen.

Pair

Valued at 10s. per pair in 1595/5.

**Ship-Boards:** Plank of a ship.

C

Valued at 20s. per C pre-1558. Not listed in 1582 rates book.

**Shoe Horns:** Tool for assisting the user to put on shoes more easily.

Dozen

Valued at around 5d. per dozen in the later accounts.

**Shovel** (Text: showyll): Type not specified.

Dozen

Valued at 6d. per dozen in 1550/1.

**Silk** (Lat: seres; Text: seric')

Lb

The 1507 book lists ‘rawe sylke’ at 6s. 8d. per lb. The term can refer either to the unspun silk or to silk cloth made from a fabric made from spun silk. It also lists ‘thrown silk’ at 13s. 4d. per lb. which would generally refer to silk thread.

‘Thrown’ or ‘worked silk’ (seric’ operat) is valued at 13s. 4d. per lb in the accounts before the rates increase. Raw silk (seric rawe) doesn’t feature in the accounts examined before 1563. In this account it is recorded at 6s. 8d. per lb. The 1582 book has various listings for silk of different sorts. Those appearing in the accounts are listed below.

**Silk, Black Spanish:**

Lb

This is probably the ‘silk of Granado black the pound’ (xvi ounces) as listed in the rates book as ‘Spanish silk’ is more expensive at 26s. 8d. per lb. Valued at around 20s. per lb in 1600/1 as in the rates book.

**Silk, *Bredth Peny*** (Text: Peny Bredth Silke): Unidentified.

**Silk, Bridges:** Silk from Bruges.

Lb

Valued at 15s. per lb as in the rates book.

**Silk, Caddis** (Text: caedese sylke): ‘Floss silk’ used as padding etc. (OED)

Lb

1507 book lists ‘sylke called rawe cades’ at 4s. per lb. Valued at 6s. 8d. per lb. in the 1540s.

**Silk, Ferrett** (Text: floret) : A kind of coarse silke. Also known as floss silk.<sup>72</sup>

Lb

Pays 4d. per lb custom in 1600/1, which values it about 6s. 8d. per lb. Valued higher than this in the rates book at 8s. 4d. per lb. Valued at 8s 4d in 1595/5 and at 16s. 8d. per bolt.

**Silk, Flanders:** From Flanders.

Lb

Valued at 6s. 8d. per lb in 1575/6.

**Silk, Nobs:** Uncertain.

Lb (21 ounce)

Listed in the 1582 rates book at 8d. per lb. Pays ob. custom per lb in 1595 so probably around the same value as the rates book. Willan doesn’t explain what a ‘nob’ is and there is no listing for this in the ‘Dictionary of Traded Goods and Commodities, 1550/1820’ The OED lists ‘nob’ as ‘a knot (on thread).

**Silk, Paris:**

Lb, paper

Valued in the accounts at 6s. 8d. per lb, as in the rates book. Also appears in 1601 by the ‘paper’ paying 8d. custom so valued at around 13s. 4d. A ‘paper’ of silk is equivalent to two pounds.

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<sup>72</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 54.

**Silk Raw** (Text: rawe): This can mean silk simply drawn from the cocoons by the process of reeling and also a fabric of spun silk. As this is shipped by the lb, like all other silks, it is likely to be the latter.

**Silk, Cyprus** (Text: Sipers): A name given to several textile fabrics originally imported from or through Cyprus.

Lb

The 1582 book lists sipers cotton but not silk. It occurs in the 1591 account. No value available. Valued at 20s. for 24 yards in 1595/5.

**Silk, Slew**: Slew is a filling made of two or more strands worked together.

Lb

Valued at around 6s. 8d. per lb in 1600/1. Not listed in rates book.

**Silk, Sticking** (Text: stitching): Silk thread.

Ounce

Valued at around 10d. per ounce in 1600/1.

**Silk, Worked** (Lat.: serica operat; Text: seric' op'at): 'Thrown' or 'worked silk' generally refers to silk thread, in particular silk thread consisting of two or more 'singles' twisted together. (OED)

**Skillets, Small**: Cooking utensil of brass, copper, or other metal, usually having three or four feet and a long handle, used for boiling liquids, stewing meat, etc.

Valued at 6s. 8d. per dozen in 1600/1.

**Skins, Beech Marten** (Text: pell' foyne): A marten native to southern Europe. Used for the fur or dressed skin.

Valued at 12d. per piece in 1546 which is same value as martens in general.

**Skins, Beaver**: Amphibious rodent with a coat of soft fur. Valued by the roll, which is a measure of varying length.

Roll

Valued in 1503 at 10s. per roll.

This is in line with 1582 rates book which values them at double this exactly.

**Skins, Budge** (Text: pell' de boge/bougie): A kind of fur, consisting of lamb's skin with the wool dressed outwards. These originated in North Africa.

The 1507 book values wyght badge' at 13s. 4d. per 100 (16s. 8d. per dozen) and 'blake budge' at 20s. per 100.

The 1582 book values 'budge white tawed' at 20s. per 100 and black tawed at 13s. 4d. per dozen. Taw relates to the tanning process for white leather. In practice the accounts list three categories of budge (1550/1) It can be described simply as 'pell budge', valued at 4s. per dozen, 'pell budge, coarse' valued at 3s. 2d. per dozen and 'fyn bowge' valued at 5 s. per dozen.

In 1576 'fine budge' probably represents the fine variety but it seems to be valued at 10s. for one, which seems too much.<sup>73</sup> The 1595/5 account has one example of non specified budge at 13s. 4d. per dozen.

**Skins, Calf** (Lat.: vitula; text: pell' vitul'): A form of leather. The export of calf skins was subject to the same restrictions as the export of tanned hides.

#### Dozen

As a form of leather, the export of calfskins was subject to the same restrictions as the export of tanned hides. The export of both was illegal, except under licence, from 14 October 1538.<sup>74</sup> For licence purposes, ten dozen calf skins were the equivalent of one dicker of hides. From 1575, calf skins were subject to a parliamentary subsidy of 3s. 4d. per dozen hides.<sup>75</sup> This was payable in addition to the aforementioned poundage, which would work out at 6d. per dozen.

Valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen before 1558 and at 10s. per dozen for exported skins thereafter.

**Skins, Civit** (Text: pell' de sivett): Wild-cat of central African origin.

#### Piece

Valued at 16d. per piece in 1516/17.

**Skins, Cony** (Text: cunny skyns, coney stagers): a rabbit: formerly the proper and ordinary name, but now superseded in general use by *rabbit*, which was originally a name for the young only. (OED) The grey variety are sometimes called coney 'stagers'.

Coney skins are valued at 2s. 6d. per C in 1600/1. The 1575/6 account has black coney skins at 6s. 8d. per dozen and also 'fine' coney skins at 10s. per piece.<sup>76</sup> There are no skins of this high a value listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Skins, Deer** (Lat.: cervus; Text: pell' cervor):

#### Dicker

Valued at 3s. 4d. per dicker in the pre-1558 accounts and at 50s. per dicker (10 skins) in 1600/1 (ie. pays 2s. 6d. custom for 10 skins) This seems like a remarkable difference in value. Not listed in rates book for 1582. There were several kinds of deer skins exported from

<sup>73</sup> TNA E190/1129/12 f16r.

<sup>74</sup> Hughes and Larkin, *Tudor Royal Proclamations* Vol. I no.184.)

<sup>75</sup> *Statutes of the Realm*, Vol. IV, 619-20.

<sup>76</sup> TNA E190/1129/12 f16r.



Ireland to Bristol in the sixteenth century and the more expensive type seen here may for example be Hart hides, which, according to Longfield, were specified were more expensive.

<sup>77</sup>

**Skins, Fawn** (Text: pell' fawn): young fallow deer, a buck or doe of the first year.

Quarter

Valued at 15d. per quart in 1503/4.

**Skins, Fish** (Text: pell' pisc'): Probably had a variety of uses.

OED: **1759 COLEBROOKE** in *Phil. Trans.* LI. 43 A piece of old wainscoat..was smoothed with a fish-skin.

Valued at 1s. 8d. per dozen in the pre-1558 accounts.

**Skins, for Fletchers** (Text: pro fletchers): The only skin listed in the rates book that is similar to this in spelling is 'fitches' which according to Willan is the skin of a polecat. The entry in the 1503/4 account however clearly states 'pro' fletchers. A fletcher, according to the OED was 'One who makes or deals in arrows; occasionally, one who makes bows and arrows'. It is possible then that fletcher skins were used by fletchers in the regard.

Valued at around 3d. ob. per skin in 1546.

**Skins, Fox** (Lat.: vulpes; Text: pell' vulpis, fox cases): Used for fur.

Piece/pane

OED: a pane or mantle of skins, is a bundle that can vary from 30-100 skins.

1507 book values 'fox skynes the pane' 6s. 8d.'

In the accounts these are valued at 2d. per piece up to the 1550s and then at 8d. in the 1563/4 account and at 10d. in 1575/6. There are, interestingly, no fox skins exported to Bristol from Ireland in the 1595/5 or 1600/1 accounts. The 1582 book values 'fox skynes the pane or mantle' 10s. and the piece 8d. This suggests that there are 15 fox skins in a pane.

**Skins, Genet**: a civet-cat native to southern Europe and North Africa, that produced a high value pelt.

Piece

Valued at around 12d. per piece in the earlier accounts. There are no examples after 1550/1 account.

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<sup>77</sup> See Longfield, *Anglo-Irish Trade*, p. 65. for a detailed discussion.

**Skins, Goat** (Text: goate skynns): used as a garment but also to make purses and wine bottles etc.

Valued in 1600/1 at 20s. per dozen. This is the same as the 1582 rates book.

**Skins, Golden** (Lat.: aureolus; Text: pell' aureor'): presumably some form of dyed and tanned skin.

Dozen/Kippe

These were a popular export to Ireland in the 1540s. Valued before 1558 at 4s. 2d. per dozen skins. Also shipped by the 'kippe' which appears to be 50 skins, as in Zupko's dictionary of weights and measures.<sup>78</sup> These are valued at 5s. per dozen in 1563/4 and do not appear in the accounts examined after that.

**Skins, Greis:** The OED states that 'in grease' was a term used chiefly in hunting and indicates that an animal was in prime and fit to kill. It suggests 'Greis' may be a shortened version denoting a hart or deer killed during this season. These however occur in the 1550/1 account at a value of only 5s. for sixty skins, which seems too little for this quantity of deer skins. In 'greis' may be a general term applied to any animal killed in season. As the value is given per piece it is unlikely that it refers to animal grease of any kind.

In 1550 'Pell vocat greis' are valued at 5d. per piece, there is also an entry for 'pell grais' at 1d. per piece.<sup>79</sup>

**Skins, Kid** (pell' 'edors, hedorn): mostly used for making gloves and shoes.

C/Dozen

'Edors' is from the latin *haedus* from Kid. It is sometimes written as 'hedorn'

Valued in the pre-1558 accounts at 5s. per C or 6d. ob. per dozen. It is also this value in the 1563/4 account. The 1582 rates book values 'kids white the mantel' at 4s. A mantle is equal to a kippe, 50 skins. In the later accounts (1595/5), kid skins are still listed by the C weight, at 10s. per C.

**Skins, Lamb** (Lat.: agnus; Text: pell' agn'): The 1582 book divides between white and black skins, which implies they had wool on them. It is not clear though whether the earlier skins had wool on them. Interestingly, while there are a small number of lamb skins imported from Ireland in the 1575/6 account, there are none in the 1594/5 or 1600/1 account and all lamb skins are entered as Morkins, which, according to the rates book, are the skins of lambs that died of disease.

Valued at 6s. 8d. per C rising to 16s. 8d. in the 1563/4 account.

The 1582 book values lambskins for export at 16s. 8d. per 100. (C in the earlier accounts is 120).

**Skins, Marten** (Text: pell' martron): The fur of martens seems to have been mostly used as edging on fine gowns etc.

<sup>78</sup> Zupko, *Dictionary of Weights and Measures*, p. 213.

<sup>79</sup> TNA E122/22/4 f19v. and f9r.

**Skins, Morkin:** The skin of a sheep or lamb that has died of disease or accident.

## C

According to Willan, morkins are lamb skins taken from beasts that died by disease or accident

They are listed in the 1582 book of rates at 6s. 8d. per C and are found in the later accounts at this value. They are often listed with broken sheep skins which are the same value. This is something that requires further investigation as it seems that all exports of ‘pell agnor’ from Ireland have been replaced by ‘morkins’. This may be because of taxation or for other reasons such as livestock disease but the latter is unlikely as large quantities of morkins are found in the 1591, 1594 and 1600 accounts, which seems a long period for such disease to persist.

**Skins, Otter** (Text: pell’ otur): The examples given in the OED suggest that the use of otter skins varied from jerkins to quivers for arrows.

## Piece

1507 book values ‘otter the tymber’ with 40 skins to the timber at 40s. (1s. per pelt).

Valued at 5d. per piece in the earlier accounts rising to around 20d. per piece in the 1594/5 account. The 1582 book values raw otter skins at 12d. each and tawed ones at 16d.

Otter skins are valued at 12d. per piece in the 1563/4 account, as in the rates book for raw skins. They are valued at 20d. in the 1575/6 and 1594/5 accounts, which is higher than the highest value given in the rates book.

**Skins, Red** (pell rub’, rubeor): Like ‘golden skins’ these were probably dyed skins.

## Dozen

1540/50 2s. 1d. per dozen.

Like ‘golden skins’ these were presumably dyed skins. it occurs a lot in the accounts up to 1550/1. There is one entry for ‘pel cunirub’ being exported to Ireland in 1563/4 which could be a related commodity but it doesn’t match with the values for either ‘red hides’ or red lash’ in the 1582 rates book.

**Skins, Salted:** Salted cow hides.

## Dicker

Valued at 13s. 4d. per dicker in the earlier accounts examined up to 1550/1 and not occurring after that. They are valued in the 1582 book as ‘salt hides the dicker’ £3 6s. 8d.

**Skins, Sheep** (Lat.: ovis; text: pell’ oviu’): Worked or ‘tawed’ skins are rare in the accounts and it seems likely that these did not have wool.

## Dozen

Valued in the earlier accounts at 10s. per C (120 skins) worked or ‘tawed’ skins are rare in the accounts but do occur in the 1540s at 13s. 4d. per C.

It seems likely that these skins did not have wool, as in the 1503/4 account, skins listed specifically as having 'no lain' are listed at the same value.

The 1582 book values untawed sheepskinnes at 13s. 4d. per 100 for export. Tawed at 53s. 4d. They occur as an import from Ireland at 13s. 4d. per C in 1563-4 but all accounts examined after this date list only 'broc fell' or broken sheep skins.

**Skins, Sheep Broken** (Text: brok' fell'): short-stapled wool found in certain parts of the fleece, when 'broken' or sorted. A fleece consists of two main kinds of wool distinguished by the length and strength of the fibre; the sorts which are long and suitable for combing being called 'matchings' or 'combing-sorts', the rest 'short wools' or 'brokes'. The spinning of the two sorts is by different processes. (OED)

## C

Valued at 5s. per C in the 1540s, 1563/4 and 1575/6 and at a higher value of 6s. 8d. per C in 1594/5 and 1600/1. Mostly they are listed with morkins at the same value.

**Skins, Spanish:** Type of leather.

## Dozen

Valued at 20s. per dozen in 1550/1 and then at £3 per dozen in 1563/4 as in the 1582 rates book.

**Skins, Vellim for Drums Head** (Text: velum): Fine parchment made from animal skin, used to stretch over a drums head.

## Dozen

Valued at around 5s. per dozen in 1600/1. Uncertain as to what a dozen signifies in this case, perhaps yards or pieces of a specific size. Not listed in the rates books.

**Skins, Wolf** (Lat.: lupus; Text: pell' lupor): Used for fur.

## Piece

Prices vary in the earlier accounts from 4d. to 10d. per piece.

The 1582 book values wolf skins at 18s. 4d. untawed and 20s. tawed.

None of the accounts examined after 1551 contain wolf skins.

**Sleek Stone:** Smooth stone used for smoothing and polishing. (OED)

Valued at around 5d for 4 pieces in 1600/1. Not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Snaffles:** simple form of bridle-bit, having less restraining power than one provided with a curb. (OED)

## Dozen

Valued at 6s. 8d. per dozen pieces in 1594-5. Listed with reins in the 1600/1 account.

**Snatches:** A hasp, catch, or fastening. (OED)

**Snuffers** (Text: snoufers): candle snuffers.

Dozen

Candle snuffers are listed in the 1582 rates book at 2s. 8d. per dozen.

Valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen in 1594-5 account.

**Soap, Black** (Text: sapon nigri, *smigmatas*): The OED states that there were two types of Castile soap, white and mottled, Black soap perhaps relates to the latter. Carus-Wilson suggests 'smigmatas' are a kind of soap, based on an entry in the *Account Rolls of Abbey of Durham*,<sup>80</sup> Therefore 'blacksoap' may be the English translation for smigmatas. Classical Latin has *smegma* or *smigma* (for which one form of the dative plural is *smegmatis*); the definition in Lewis and Short (under 'smegma') is 'cleansing medicine or detergent', as opposed to 'soap' for *sapo*.<sup>81</sup>

**Soap, Castile** (Lat.: sapon; Text: sope, sapon): fine hard soap made with olive-oil and soda. There are two kinds, the white and the mottled. (OED)

Dozen, lb or C

1507 book values Castile or white soap at 10s. per 'c wyght'.

White and Castile soap are valued in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts at 15s. per C, as in the rates book.

The values in the 1575/6 are somewhat confusing. Sapon albi is recorded at 13s. 4d. per C<sup>82</sup> and at 4d. per lb<sup>83</sup> and also at 4d. per dozen.<sup>84</sup> A dozen therefore is not 12 lbs and is perhaps a different kind of soap, such as a bar, neither is there 112 lbs in a C, but rather 40 lbs, which doesn't make sense either. . The earlier accounts show the same thing, a C is valued at 10s. while a dozen in 15d.

**Sokatt:** Unidentified.

C

Found in the 1525/6 account.

**Sort:** See figs.

**Spectacles:** Device for assisting defective eyesight, or for protecting the eyes from dust, light. (OED)

<sup>80</sup> Carus-Wilson, *Overseas Trade of Bristol*, p. 338.

<sup>81</sup> URL: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext>, accessed 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

<sup>82</sup> TNA E190/1129/12 f12v.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid. f16v.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid f11r, f16r.

## Dozen

Valued in the 1540s at 3d. for pocket spectacles and 4d. for others.

**Spectacle Cases, Ungilded:** Case for glasses not gilded or in other words overlaid wholly or in parts with a thin coating of gold.

## Dozen

Valued at 7d. per dozen in 1575/6

**Spermaceti** (Text: sparmacete): A fatty substance found in the head of the sperm-whale and used largely in various medicinal preparations, and in the manufacture of candles. (OED)

## Lb

1542/3 values vary.

1551 valued at 1s. 8d. per lb

1541/2 valued at £5 per C.<sup>85</sup>

The 1582 rates book lists it as 'Parmacitie. The pound' at 10s., which seems like a lot and could be an error. There are no entries for this commodity in the later accounts examined.

**Spert:** Possibly refers to hartwort, a herb which, according to Culpepper is 'a warm martial plant, both heating and drying; it provokes urine and the menses, expels the birth and after birth; and is good in disorders of the head and womb'.<sup>86</sup>

## Dozen

**Spikenard** (Text: spignard): an aromatic substance employed in the preparation of a costly ointment or oil, obtained from an Eastern plant, now identified as the *Nardostachys Jatamansi* of Northern India. (OED)

## Lb

Valued at 10d. per lb in 1516-17. The 1582 rates book lists it at £33 6s. 8d. per C (100 lbs).

**Spurs:** Device for pricking the side of a horse in order to urge it forward. Various types found including 'white' and 'coarse' spurs.

## Dozen Pair

Valued at 1s. 6d. per dozen pair in 1550/1.

The 1575/6 account has spurs at 3s. 4d. per dozen for 'pairs' and 2s. 6d. for 'singles'.

There is also an entry in this account for white spurs at 30d. per dozen pairs. Coarse spurs and small spurs are recorded in the 1594/5 account at 3s. 4d. and 20d. respectively.

<sup>85</sup> TNA E122/21/10 f02v

<sup>86</sup> URL: <http://www.complete-herbal.com/culpepper/sermountain.htm>, accessed 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

**Starch** (Text: styrtche, sterche): Substance obtained from flour by removing some of its constituents, various uses including stiffening fabrics and sizing paper.

Lb

Valued at 4d. per lb in 1550/1 and in 1563/4 at 2d. per lb (styrtche)  
The 1582 rates book lists starch at 13s. 4d. per C (112 lb)

**Stecull:** Unidentified.

Valued at 6d. per dozen in 1545.

**Steel:** General name for certain artificially produced varieties of iron, distinguished from those known as 'iron' by certain physical properties, esp. greater hardness and elasticity. (OED)

C / burden

Steel occurs in the accounts mainly by the 'burden'. Imported steel is valued at 10s. per C in the 1542/3 account and exported at 13s. 4d. per C in 1600/1, otherwise all entries are by the burden. Almost all entries are for steel exported to Ireland.

The value of the burden varies greatly in the accounts. In the 1540s it is 3s. 4d. but in 1550/1, there are three different values for a burden (3s. 4d., 5s., 1s. 8d). In 1563/4 a burden is 4s., 1575/6 its 2s. 6d. and in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts, a burden is valued at 5s.

The 1582 book values steel at £6 per half barrel containing 1 bundle = 6 sheafs = 180 gads. According to Zupko's dictionary of weights and measures a burden' is a weight for steel containing either 6 or 12 sheaves of 30 gads each and sometimes reckoned at 9 score or 180 lbs.<sup>87</sup> These variations in the volume of a burden must explain the discrepancies in the values found in the accounts.

**Stock-Card** (Text: stockards): Not to be confused with stockings. These are large wool-cards fastened to a stock or support. Probably a quicker and cheaper method than using a wool card.

Pair

Not listed in the 1582 rates book. Valued at 1s. per pair in the earlier accounts and at around 15d. per pair in the late accounts.

**Stockings:** Close-fitting garment covering the foot, the leg, and often the knee. Various types found, defined by length or fabric used.

Not to be confused with stockards which are stock-cards) Stockings don't appear in the accounts examined before 1575. The 1575/6, 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts record stockings of various lengths and materials being exported to Ireland. Price varies depending on material, which is not always specified in the accounts.

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<sup>87</sup> Zupko, *Dictionary of Weights and Measures*, p 54.

**Stockings, Cloth**

Dozen pairs

Valued at 20s. per dozen pairs in 1600/1.

**Stockings, Coarse**

Dozen pairs

Valued at 10s. per dozen pairs in 1575/6.

**Stockings, Kersey**

Dozen pairs

Valued at 20s. per dozen pairs in 1600/1

**Stockings, Short**

Dozen pairs

Probably woollen stockings

Valued at 8s. 4d. per dozen pairs in 1594/5 and at 10s. and 20s. per dozen in 1600/1

**Stockings, Short Knit**

Dozen pairs

Valued at 10s. per dozen pairs in 1594/5

**Stockings, Short, Womens**

Dozen pairs

Valued at 8s. 4d. per dozen pairs in 1594/5.

**Stockings, Short, Woollen**

Dozen pairs

Valued at 8s. 4d. per dozen pairs in 1594/5.

**Stockings, Short Worsted**

Dozen pairs

Valued at 60s. per dozen pairs in 1594/5.



### **Stockings, Woollen**

Dozen pairs

Value varies

### **Stockings, Worsted**

Dozen Pairs

Valued at 40s. and £3 per dozen pairs in 1594/5

**Stock-Lock:** A lock enclosed in a wooden case, usually fitted on an outer door. (OED)

Dozen

Valued at 3s. 4d. per dozen in 1600/1

**Stone** (petra): A weight varying locally and for different commodities; from 8 to 24 lbs.

**Strats (stratts):** Unidentified but possibly describes a strait of some commodity such as cloth or ribbon.

Valued at 4s. 2d. (? each) in 1543.

**String** (Text: streng):

Bolt

Valued at 3d. per dozen bolts in 1550/1.

**Sturse:** *See* sturgeon fish.

**Stygret:** Unidentified; possibly a spice or medicine.

Valued at 5d. per lb in the 1540s

**Succade** (Text: succado): Fruit preserved in sugar, either candied or in syrup. (OED)

Lb

Listed with Marmalade and valued at around 1s ob in 1594-5

### **Sugar**

Lb, chest, loaf

Sugar in the pre-1558 accounts is valued at £2 per chest (cist/cashe/casse). There is 120 lb per chest (4d. per lb)

Sugar in the later accounts is valued at £3 6s. 8d. per C. There are 3C to a chest.

Sugar is frequently entered in the accounts by the loaf. A loaf is a moulded conical mass of hard sugar made by passing syrup through already refined sugar in a sugar pot. Loaves varied in size.<sup>88</sup> If bought in this form the sugar would have been broken up using sugar nippers. Loaves in the accounts examined here contain anything from 6 to 11 lb.

**Sugar-Candy:** Sugar clarified and crystallized by slow evaporation. (OED)

Lb

Valued at 8d. per lb. in the 1540s and at 1s. per lb in 1575/6. The 1582 book values sugar candy at £3 6s. 8d. the half chest.

**Sugar, Mucovado:** Raw or unrefined sugar obtained from the juice of the sugar cane by evaporating it and draining off the molasses. (OED)

C/Chest

This only occurs in the 1594/5 account and is listed with white sugar at £10 per chest. It is not listed separately in the 1582 rates book.

**Sugar, Panele** (Text: panells): Brown unpurified sugar from the Caribbean. (OED)

This occurs in the 1594/5 account at half the value of white sugar, £5 per chest. A chest contains 3C. The account also records 'Panele de Brassel' at the same value.

**Sugar, Powder** (Text: saccari powther de Brasill): Refined sugar, crushed into powder.

There is one entry in the accounts for this, again in 1594/5. It is shipped by the C, but there is not 3C to a chest in this case (9C in 4 chests), unless there is a recording error. Valued for customs purposes at £3 6s. 8d. per C, the same as white sugar/loaf sugar, and not at a higher value as suggested by the dictionary of traded commodities.

**Sugar of Roses** (Text: succar rosars): Made of red rose buds and double refined sugar reduced to a powder separately and then combined, mixed with a little water, and formed into lozenges before drying.<sup>89</sup>

Lb

The OED doesn't list it before 1668 (under rose) but does mention honey of roses and syrup of roses before that date, which are probably very similar.

Valued at 2s. 6d. per lb in 1550/1 and at 2d. per oz in 1525/6.

**Sulphur** (Text: brymstone): A greenish-yellow non-metallic substance, found in volcanic regions, and occurring free in nature as a brittle crystalline solid, and widely distributed in combination with metals and other substances. (OED)

<sup>88</sup> : 'Sugar loaf - Surfeit water', *Dictionary of Traded Goods, 1550-1820* (2007). URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp>

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

## Lb

Value varies in the accounts but usually about 1d. ob. per lb. The same value in the accounts for the entire period.

**Sumach:** A preparation of the dried and chopped leaves and shoots of plants of the genus *Rhus*, used in tanning, also for dyeing and staining leather black, and medicinally as an astringent. (OED)

## C (112 lb)

Valued at 13s. 4d. per C in the accounts as in the 1582 rates book.

**Sword Blades:** Swords are often traded in their various components as well as finished.

Values vary. In 1550, they are recorded at 13s. 4d. per dozen and in 1575/6, they are recorded at 13s. and 6s. 8d. per dozen. The 1582 rates book lists 'swoord blades course the dosen' at 13s. 4d.

**Sword Hilt:** The handle of a sword or dagger.

## Dozen

Valued at 10s. per dozen in 1575/6. The 1582 rates book lists these at 13s. 4d. per dozen.

T**Tables, Pairs**

Listed in 1600/1 account being exported to Ireland when 'iiii payer tables' paid 5d. custom, so valued at around 8s. 4d. (2s. 1d. per pair) Not listed in 1582 rates book.

**Taishail:** Unidentified. As this is an export from Ireland in 1503/4, it is unlikely to be a manufactured item. Unlikely to be teazels either as these are often found as imports to Ireland.

This occurs in the 1503/4 account coming from Ireland. It is recorded at 20s. for both 1 and 2 pieces.

**Tallow, Rough** (Lat.: sebum; Text: cepi/cepe rowe): Hard substance made from animal fat, used for making candles and soap. There are two types, rough and rendered or 'molton' which was more expensive.

1516/17-5s. per C

1507 book values 'tallow in cakes the c wayte' 6s. 8d.

The accounts up to 1558 show that rough tallow was valued at 3s. 4d. per c for customs purposes. Perhaps the 1507 rates book refers to rendered tallow, which was more expensive.

1582 book values 'tallowe' at 16s. 8d. per C. Note, the unlicensed export of tallow was forbidden after 14 October 1538

**Tankard:** A drinking-vessel, formerly made of wooden staves and hooped. It can also be a tub or basin.

Dozen

Listed by the 'shock' in the 1582 rates book.

Valued at 10d. per dozen in the 1540s.

**Tapes and Cannelles:** 'Tapes', when they occur with 'cannells' are probably Taps, as a cannell according to the OED was a pipe for a cask.

C

Valued at or under 10d. per C in the later accounts.

**Tar:** Dark, thick flammable liquid distilled from wood or coal, used for preserving wood.

Last

Valued in the later accounts at 40s. per last as in the 1582 rates book.

Value varies considerably in earlier accounts, for example in 1516/17 and 1545/6 tar is valued at 40s. per last while in 1525/6 and 1542/3 it is valued at half this amount.

**Teazle/Teasel** (Text: tezell, teasell, tasel): A plant with prickly leaves, used to produce a napped surface on fabrics.

M

Valued at 2s. 6d. per M in the 1540s and at 6s. 8d. per M in the later accounts as in the rates book. They are listed at a much lower value in 1563 at 20d. per M. Perhaps a different quality or variety but the 1582 rates book doesn't indicate this.

**Tennis Ball:** used in the game of tennis.

M

Valued at 10s. per M. Imported to Bristol from Flanders in 1516. Listed in the 1582 rates book by the fat and the M, 20s. per M.

**Terra Sigilla:** Perhaps 'Terra Sigillata' as in the 1582 book of rates, an astringent bole used for medicinal purposes.

Lb

Valued at 3d. per lb in 1563/4. Valued at 12d per lb in the 1582 rates book.

**Testers:** A flat canopy for a bed.

Yard

Listed in the 1595 account with curtains and described as being of ‘coarse drapery’. The exact value is unknown<sup>90</sup>

**Thimbles:** Bell-shaped sheath of metal or leather worn on the end of the finger to push the needle in sewing. (OED)

Dozen

In the 1541/2 account price varies from 1d. to 3d. per dozen. Listed in the 1554 Rates book at 5s. per M. Valued at 13s. 4d. per M in the later accounts.

### **Thread, Black**

Lb

Valued at 15d. per lb in 1576.

**Thread, Bridges** (Text: brigges): Bruges thread.

Dozen lb

Valued at 6s. 8d. per dozen in 1516/17.

### **Thread, Brown**

Lb

Valued at 15d. per lb in 1576.

### **Thread, Blue**

Lb

Valued at around 20d. per lb in 1595.

### **Thread, Coloured**

Lb

Valued at around 20d. per lb in 1595.

**Thread, Inkle** (Text: ynkle): A kind of linen tape or the thread or yarn from which it is made.<sup>91</sup>

Dozen/Lb

Valued at 4s. 4d. per dozen in 1516/17 and at 13d. per lb in 1575/6.

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<sup>90</sup> E190/1131/10 F12r

<sup>91</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 34.

### **Thread, Irish Linen**

C lb

Valued at 30s. per C in 1525/6 account.

**Thread, Outnall:** A kind of linen thread. Willan suggests that it is from Oudenaarde as the 1558 Book of Rates has Owtনার্দে.<sup>92</sup>

**Thread, Packet:** Strong cord or twine used for sewing or tying up packs or bundles.

Valued at 4s. per dozen lbs in the later accounts, where it is a common entry. This must be 'bottom packthred' as listed in the rates book at the same value

**Thread, Paris:** Presumably thread from Paris.

Bolt/But

1576-3s. 4d. per bolt

Listed in the rates book as a bale containing c bolts at £10 and as a but at 2s.

**Thread, Piecing:** Used for repairing cloth. (OED)

Valued at 2s. 6d. per lb in 1594/5 account.

**Thread, Sisters:** Bleached thread.

Valued at 5s. per lb in 1601 as in the rates book.

### **Thread, White**

Lb

Valued at 20d. per lb in 1576.

The 1582 rates book lists Inckle unwrought called white thread single or double the c li. At 20d. per lb however this seems to be a different type of white thread.

### **Thread, Shoemakers**

Lb

1600/1 valued at 10d. or under per lb.

**Thrummys** (Text: thrums): Ends of the warp-threads left unwoven and remaining attached to the loom when the web is cut off. (OED)

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<sup>92</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 61.

Valued at 6s. 8d. per dozen lbs in 1525/6. This cannot be the same ‘thrummes’ listed in Willan as this is listed at 20s. per C in 1582, which is much less. Willan doesn’t give a definition.

**Ticks** (Text: tikes): The case or cover containing feathers, flocks, or the like, forming a mattress or pillow; also from 16th c., applied to the strong hard linen or cotton material used for making such cases.

Listed in the 1554 national rates book at 3s. per piece, they are valued in 1516/17 at 3s. 4d. per piece.

**Tierce**: Measure of capacity equivalent to one third of a pipe, usually of wine but also means a cask or vessel holding this quantity, and can be of various other kinds of provisions such as honey.

**Tin** (Lat.: stannum; Text: stanum): Well-known metal with many uses including making tin-plate and lining culinary and other iron vessels.

C/burden

Valued at 20s. per C pre-1558 and at 5s. per burden in 1595. Not listed by the burden in the rates book.

### **Tin, Devonshire**

C (112 lb)

Valued at 30s. per C in the post-1558 accounts, as in the rates book.

**Tin, Worked/Wrought** (Text: stanum operat)

Lb

Valued at 30s. per C in 1550/1

**Tobacco**: Dried and prepared tobacco plant leaves.

Lb

Found only in the 1600/1 account and pays 2d. per lb custom and so is valued at around 3s. 4d. per lb. Tobacco was re-valued in 1604 to double this value.<sup>93</sup>

**Ton**: Measure of capacity for various solid commodities, such as lime, wheat, cheese, etc.

**Torch**: Hand-carried light, consisting of a stick of resinous wood, or of twisted hemp or similar material soaked with tallow, resin, or other inflammable substance.

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<sup>93</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. xli.

**Tow** (Text: towe): The fibre of flax, hemp, or jute prepared for spinning by some process of scutching.

C (112 lb)

Valued at 6s. 8d. per C in 1575, 1595, as in the 1582 rates book.

**Treacle** (Text: treacle): A medicinal compound, composed of many ingredients, formerly in repute as an antidote to venomous bites, poisons generally, and malignant diseases. (OED)

Valued at less than 10d. in the 1595 account so probably the same as the 8d. in the rates book.

**Treenails** (Text: dowels): A cylindrical pin of hard wood used in fastening timbers together, particularly in shipbuilding and other work where the materials are exposed to water.

C

Valued at 3d. per C in the pre-1558 accounts and not found in the accounts examined thereafter.

**Trenchers**: A plate or platter of wood, metal, or earthenware.

Gross/M

Valued at 4d. per gross in 1546 and 1563 (type unspecified) rising to 3s. 4d. per gross by 1575. There is also a 'common' trencher listed in the later accounts at a cheaper value of 10d. per gross.

The 1582 book values 'trenchers of common sorte' 5s. per M.

Painted trenchers valued at 5d. each in 1550/1 and wooden trenchers are around 13d. per gross in 1594/5.

**Tressels**: Unknown but unlikely to be a 'trestle' as shipped by the 'M'.

M

Valued at c. 6s. 8d. per M in 1600/1. Not listed in the rates book.

**Tun**: A cask of definite capacity; hence, a measure of capacity for wine and other liquids, usually equivalent to 2 pipes or 4 hogsheads, containing 252 old wine-gallons.

**Tunnage**: The space occupied by a tun cask of wine which was the unit used in measuring the carrying capacity or burden of a ship.

**Turnsole**: A violet blue or purple colouring matter.<sup>94</sup>

C (lb)

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<sup>94</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 62.



The 1582 rates book lists it at £3 6s. 8d. per C (8d. per lb)

It turns up in the 1601 account, paying ob. per lb custom, so less than 10d. per lb nominal value, so probably the same value as the rates book.

**Turpentine:** Resin from coniferous trees. Distilled turpentine is used to create a volatile oil.

C

The 1507 book values 'tyrpytyne the c wayte' 9s. 4d. and 1d. per lb. (implies c = 112 lb.).

It is found in 1516-17 at 5s. per C and in the 1540s at 13s. 4d. per C. In the accounts after the rates revision, it is valued at 10s. per 112lb, as in the 1582 rates book.

**Twine**

Lb

Valued at c. 2d. per lb in the 1540s.

**Twine, for Nets**

Lb

Valued at 4d. per lb in the 1540s.

**Urinals:** Glass vessel used to collect urine for medical examination.

Dozen

Valued at under 10d. per dozen in 1595

**Verdigris** (Text: vertigris): A chemical with a vivid blue-green colour; used as a pigment and also had medicinal uses.

Lb

The 1507 book values 'vergresse the c wayte' 40s. (4.3d. per lb. if 112 lb.) The value seems to vary somewhat in the pre-1558 accounts as in the 1516/17 and 1525/6 accounts, its valued between 8d. and 9d. per lb, but is 5d. in the 1540s and 1550/1 accounts.

1516- 10d. per lb, 1526- varies 8d. and 9d. per lb.

1582 book values 'verdegrece' the 112 lb. at £3 6s. 8d. (7.1d. per lb.) The method of recording in the later accounts (custom payments only and not values, makes it impossible to work out the exact value per lb.

**Vestments:** Presumably items of ceremonial clothing from latin *vestimentum*.

Valued at 33s. 4d. per piece in 1551.

**Vice, Hand:** A mechanical device used to operate another piece of apparatus. (OED)

Piece

Found in the 1594/5 account at around 20d. per piece.

**Vinegar** (Text: vini egri): This is ‘corrupt’ wine; produced from the acetous fermentaion of wine and used in food preservation and cooking.

Tun

Valued at £2 per tun pre -1558 and £2 6s. 8d. per tun thereafter, as in the 1582 rates book.

**Viols:** Possibly small containers for medicine (ie. vial).

Dozen

The 1582 rates book lists ‘viols the peece’ at 6s. 8d., but Willan doesn’t offer an explanation of the term. The most likely explanation for the ‘viols’ in the accounts are small containers for medicine (ie. vial) as they are valued at only around 10s. per gross in 1595.

This value is too small for viols to be an instrument or the Viol listed in Willan at 6s. 8d. per piece.

**Viols, Square:** As above.

**Virkin** (Text: vyrk, firkin): Measure of salmon; equal to a quarter of a pipe.

**Visers** (Text: vizars): The front part of a helmet, covering the face but provided with holes or openings to admit of seeing and breathing, and capable of being raised and lowered.

Valued at approximately 10s. per dozen in the 1600/1 account.

## W

**Wainscot:** Wooden panelling.

C (100 pieces.

Valued at £2 per C in the 1540s and rising to £4 per C in the 1582 rates book.

**Walnut:** The nut of the walnut tree. The seed of the mature fruit is eaten like any other nut, and the soft unripe fruit is used entire for pickling. (OED)

Ton

Valued at 9s. per ton in 1551. The 1582 rates book lists them by the barrel at 3s. 4d. per barrel.

**Wax** (Lat.: cera; Text: wex / cere): Substance produced by bees and when warm it can be moulded to any shape. It could be bleached white or left in its original yello colour. Uses include candle-making, seals and coating writing tables.

C (lb)

The 1507 book values 'Wexe the C wayte' 40s. (4d. per lb if C = 120 lbs.).

The 1540s accounts suggest that C=120 lbs as wax is valued at 4d. per lb. The 1550/1 account however suggests that there are 100 lb in a 'C' as it's valued at 5d. per lb.

The 1582 book values wax at £3 per C (112 lb.) Wax is valued at this amount in the later accounts, but it is impossible to be precise about amount of lbs to a C as the values are estimated, based on customs payments.

**Wax, Red** (Text: cere rub'): Probably used for seals.

Lb

Valued at 8d. per lb in the 1564 account. Not listed in 1582 rates book.

**Wey**: Measure of salt, coal, wheat etc., varying locally and for different commodities. A wey of wheat for example equals 6 quarters which equals 48 bushels.

**Whale Meat** (Text: pisc' de whals): Presumably this refers to whale meat since in the sixteenth century, sea mammals such as dolphins and whales were often classed as fish.

Hogshead

Valued at 5s. per hogshead in 1525/6.

**Wheat**: Grain used to produce flour.

1 wey = 6 quarters = 48 bushels (bushel = 64 pints)

Valued 20s. per wey / 3s. 4d. per quarter, in the earlier accounts .

The 1582 book values exported wheat 10s. per quarter and imported wheat 6s. 8d. per quarter.

**Whittles** (Text: whitelles): Coarse shaggy mantles made in Ireland; also blankets.

Found in the 1503/4 account, valued at 3s. 4d. per piece.

**Wick Yarne** (Text: wike): Possibly yarn used to make candle wicks.

Dozen

Not listed in the 1582 rates book. valued at 18d. per dozen in 1576. Dozen could be lbs.

**Wine**: Usually described according to it's origin ie.; Canaries, Bordeaux, Charente, Malaga, Gascon etc.

1 Tun = 2 pipes / butts = 3 tertian = 4 hogsheads = 6 tierce = 8 barrels

Not valued. Pays 'Tunnage' of 3s. per tun.

In 1582 an Imposition of 50s. per tun is levied on French wine by Queen Mary, in return for lifting a blanket ban on French wine imposed since the start of England's war with France. Some time after that an imposition of 40s. per tun is levied on imports of all sweet wines, which covers all those coming from Iberia and the Mediterranean.

**Wine, *Alegant*:** This possibly refers to *alegar*, which is vinegar formed by the acetous fermentation of ale ie. malt-vinegar and is to ale what vinegar is to wine. If so, it is not clear why it is recorded as wine. A further possibility is that it refers to Alicante wine.

**Wine, *Bastard*:** Sweet Spanish wine.

**Wine, *Madeira*:** Fortified dessert wine.

**Wine *Muscadel*:** Any of various sweet wines made from muscat or similar grapes.

**Wine, *Rob Davy*:** This, according to the OED, is Roberdavy wine, a wine used in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. **Wine, *Seck/Sack*:** General name for a class of white wines imported from Spain and the Canaries.

**Wine *Peresomena*:** Unidentified.

**Wire, *Virginal*:** Possibly relates to wire used in the virginal, a keyed instrument.

Lb

Valued at 20d. per lb in 1576. It is not listed in 1582 rates book.

**Woad:** A yellow flowered plant whose leaves were used to make blue dye. Despite the variety of terms used to describe woad in the accounts, study of its values and the locations from where it is exported to Bristol over the course of the century suggest that there are actually only two main types, Woad from Toulouse and Azores or Green Woad.

Azores woad is listed as Gaid de Insulis, Gualdi Viridi and Pastel de Surries. These three types are all found in the later accounts coming from Sao Miguel and Terceira in the Azores and although the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts contain only 'Gualdi Viridi' or Green Woad, this is valued at the same price as Pastel de Surries and Gaid de Insulis. A possible explanation for this is that Green Woad almost always comes from St Michaels or Sao Miguel which is also known as 'Green Island' and so this name could have been used to identify woad from there. According to the dictionary for traded goods, the 1660 rates book had an entry for 'Islands or Green Woad' which further suggests that Azores and Green Woad are the same thing. The 1582 rates book lists only 2 types Tholos and Green woad. Pastel de Surries is listed as coming from Terceira and green woad from 'Insulas de Surries' with same values, again suggesting that Pastel de Surries is azores or green woad. The exact meaning of 'Insulas de Surries' is as yet unknown. Insulas being plural suggests the possibility that it is a generic name for the group of islands. The only difficulty with this is an entry in the 1554 national rates book, listing woad of the isle of Assorns and of the isle of Surrey separately.

**Woad, Azores** (Text: wod / gaid de insulis/ gualdi viridi/ pastel de surries): All found in the later accounts coming from Sao Miguel and Terceira in the Azores. Green Woad almost always comes from St Michael's or Sao Miguel which is also known as 'Green Island' and so this name may have been used to identify woad from there.

1 bale = 2 ballet (approx.) = 2.5 C

Valued at 6s. 8d. per C in pre-1558 accounts and at 10s. a ton thereafter. Same as green woad.

**Woad, Toulouse** (Text: wood, ode, gaid de Tholos, Tolos): Toulouse in France.

1 bale = 2 ballet (approx) = 2.5 C

pipe=4 bales=8 measures

C=112 lb

A pipe is valued at £5 in 1516/17. It is also found at 8s. per C pre-1558 and at 13s. 4d. per C in the later accounts.

**Wood Ashes:** The 1582 book lists 'ashes called wood or sope ashes the last'. Willan suggests that these were 'ashes from burnt wood, which provided the alkaline base for soap.'<sup>95</sup> There is a possibility that the ashes in the accounts are 'woad ashes' as the spelling is always 'wod or wode'. The OED acknowledges that woad ashes can refer to this definition also, but the term more commonly denotes burnt wine lees, which are used to make a dye.

Seam/last

The 1507 rates book lists 'ashes called wood ashes the last' at 20s. In the 1540s a seam is valued at 3s. 4d., so presumably there are about 6 seams to a last.

**Wood, Block:** Logwood. The wood of an American tree used in dyeing and also in medicine as an astringent. The name derives from the fact that it was imported in logs.

C

Valued at 10s. per C in 1594/5 based on customs payments.

**Wood, Box, for combs** (box pro pecten): Used for making combs.

It is listed in the 1582 rates book by the but, pipe or fat containing iiii M. Valued at 2s. per C in the 1540s.

**Wood, Brazil** (Text: brazel): A red wood from which dye is obtained.<sup>96</sup> The term can also be used to refer to the dyestuff extracted from the wood.

<sup>95</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 6.

<sup>96</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 10.

## Dozen/C/Ton (lbs)

The term can also be used to refer to the dyestuff extracted from the wood.

Valued at £33 6s. 8d. per ton in the 1594/5 and 1600/1 account, as in the 1582 rates book.

**Wood, Clapholt** (Text: clappoll): Clapboard is ‘A smaller size of split oak, imported from north Germany, and used by coopers for making barrel-staves’. (OED)

## C

It is shipped by the small C (v xx) and the great C (xxiiii small)<sup>97</sup> Pre -1558, a small C is valued at 3s. 4d. and a great C at £4. The 1582 rates book lists it at 5s. per small C and £6 per great C.

Found at 5s per C in 1600-01.

**Wood, Deal** (Text: deale boards): Planks or boards of fir or pine wood.

## Piece

Imported on a Hanseatic ship at 18d. per piece in 1551. Note this is the same value as given to ‘Fire’ boards (Fir) in this account so it is likely that the deal here is fir. The 1582 rates book lists three different types of deal boards: spruce, neighborow and Norway.<sup>98</sup>

**Wood, Fir** (Text: fyreboards): Fir wood imported from Norway.

## Piece

Listed in 1551 account (see above)

**Wood, Irish** (Irish boards): Technically a board is a piece of timber sawn thin, and having considerable extent of surface. The type of timber is not specified.

## C

Valued at 20s. per C in the pre-1558 accounts.

**Wool Cards** (Text: wolcards): These were used to disentangle fibres of wool prior to spinning.

## Dozen

The 1507 rates book values woolcards at 6s. 8d. per dozen for new ones and at 4s. per dozen for old ones, rising in the 1582 book to 10s. and 6s. per dozen respectively. The cards of the Bristol accounts are generally going to Ireland and are of the old sort.

**Wool, Irish** (Lat.: lana; Text: lane hibern’): Sheep or lambs wool.

<sup>97</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 16.

<sup>98</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 22.

**Stone (Petras)**

Valued at 2s. 8d. per stone before 1558 and 5s. per stone thereafter.

**Wool, Spanish** (lane hespan'): This is probably Spanish felt wool, used for making hats.

**Stone/C**

Valued in the earlier accounts at 5s. 4d. per stone.

The 1582 book values 'wul called Spanish wul the C' £5 but the Spanish wool that is actually listed in the accounts is called 'Spanish Hat Wool' at £4 3s. 2d. per C which occurs in both the 1594/5 and 1600/1 accounts.

**Wormseed** (Text: wormsed): Native to Central and South America and the Caribbean. It was used to expel intestinal parasites (especially roundworms and hookworms) in humans and animals. It was also used to make a tea for menstrual cramps, fever, and chills.

**C/Lb**

Valued at 2s. per lb or £10 per C (100 lbs).

**Yard** (Text: virg): A measurement for cloth. The statute yard is 36 inches.

**Glossary of Cloth****Cloth of Assize**<sup>99</sup>

**Cloth of Assize, without Grain** (Lat.: pannus sine grano; Text: pann' sine grano): This was the standard woollen broadcloth for customs purposes: 24 yards x 2 yards in size. It is important to note that a cloth of this size rarely existed in reality, the standard 'broadcloth' type of cloth was assessed for customs purposes in terms of how many cloths it would make up. Without grain meant the cloth was not dyed using the expensive scarlet dyestuff 'grayne' (kermes).

**Cloth of Assize, dyed with Grain** (Lat.: pannus in grano; Text: pann' in grano): Broadcloth dyed with kermes.

**Cloth of Assize, Dozen**: A 'dozen' cloth was 12 yards long, rather than the usual 24.

**Cloth of Assize, Strait**: In the E122 series of accounts, a strait cloth was half the width of standard broadcloth, and paid half custom. In the later accounts however a streit or street is valued as a sixth of a cloth which is confirmed by the 1582 rates book.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>99</sup> Strictly speaking, many of the cloths in this category had their own customary sizes but the term 'cloth of assize' has been used during the course of this study to distinguish those cloths of English production which are generally found to be customed pro rata in relation to the standard broadcloth and therefore paid specific rather than 'poundage' duties. These cloths usually do not have nominal values ascribed to them in the accounts. They were taxed in this manner because of the difficulties associated with the many different types, sizes and weights of cloth produced in England. It is clear from the often inconsistent methods of estimating cloth duties used by the customs officers, that a certain amount of rough estimation was used to value such cloths. Due to this and various other methodological issues, any analysis of the relative importance of woollen cloth over the course of the century can only produce very broad trends.

<sup>100</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 73.

**Cloth of Assize, Dozen Strait:** Half the width and half the length of a standard cloth a quarter of a cloth.

**Cloth of Assize, Bridgwater:** Equivalent to half a standard cloth.

**Cloth Cardinals, White:** According to the 1582 rates book, there are 6 cardinals to a standard cloth.

**Cloth of Assize, Devonshire Dozen:** Usually four to a standard broad cloth.

**Cloth of Assize, Devonshire Dozen Double:** Two to a standard cloth

**Cloth of Assize, Kersey:** When paying the ancient custom, there are three of these to one standard cloth.

**Cloth of Assize, Northern:** Exact size or value unclear.

**Cloth of Assize, Northern Dozen:** Exact size or value unclear.

**Cloth of Assize, Northern Plains and Checks:** Four to a standard cloth.

**Cloth of Assize, Western Dozen/Western Kersey:** Equal to a quarter of a cloth

**Cloth of Assize, Penistones:** <sup>101</sup> Four unfriezed penistones, or two friezed, to a standard cloth.

**Cloth of Assize, Pinwhites:** Six to a standard cloth.

### **Cloth, Other**

**Cloth, Bay** (Text: baie): A napped material, half worsted with a warp of combed wool. Used for stiffening and lining. Range of quality depended on number of threads per inch.<sup>102</sup>

Valued at 20s. per piece with one in every ten allowed custom free in the later accounts.

**Cloth, Bologna Sarcenet** (Text: bollonia): A soft thin silk in plain or twill weaves.

Yard

Valued at around 3s. 2d. per yard in 1595.

**Cloth, Breton** (Text: brecnocks): A woollen cloth.

Piece

Valued at 20s. per piece in the 1540s.

**Cloth, Breton Canvas** (Text: canvas britan'): Canvas cloth from Brittany.

C (yards)

Found in the 1503/4 account, valued at 20s. per C

**Cloth, Breton Linen** (Text: pan' linen britan'): Linen cloth from Brittany.

Bolt

Found in the 1503/4 account, valued at 6s. 8d. per bolt

<sup>101</sup> E. Charlesworth, 'A local example of the factors influencing industrial location', *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 91, No. 4. (Apr., 1938), 340-351.

<sup>102</sup> URL: [www.vertetsable.com/research\\_bibliography.htm](http://www.vertetsable.com/research_bibliography.htm), accessed 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008.



**Cloth, Bristol White:** Probably a white woollen cloth.

Piece

Found in the 1540s, valued at 8s. 8d. per piece.

**Cloth, Buckram:** A stiff-finished heavily sized fabric of cotton or linen used for interlinings in garments, for stiffening in millinery, and in bookbinding.

Piece/Role/Dozen

**Cloth, Buckram Black:** A less expensive variety of buckram.

Yard

A less expensive variety, valued at around 8d. per yard in 1575.

**Cloth, Buffin:** A coarse cloth in use for the gowns of the middle classes. (OED)

Piece (8 yards)

Customs valuation of around 13s. 4d. per piece (8 yards) in 1595 and at 20s. per piece (size unknown) in 1600/1.

**Cloth, Calico:** One of the oldest cottons, originating in Calcutta, India. It is generally plain white, coarse and light-weight.

Piece

Customs valuation of around 6s. 8d. per piece in the later accounts.

**Cloth, Cambric:** A kind of fine white linen, originally made at Cambray in Flanders. (Also applied to an imitation made of hard-spun cotton yarn.)

Valued in 1600/1 at around 40s. per piece, based on custom payments.

**Cloth, Camlet** (Text: chamlet): A fine, lustrous, woollen fabric made of camel hair, angora wool, or silk.

Piece

Valued at 15s. per piece in the 1540s and at 20s. per piece in 1563. The 1582 rates book lists Camlet 'watered' and 'unwatered' at 20s. a piece.

**Cloth, Canvas:** A strong or coarse unbleached cloth made of hemp or flax, used as the material for sails of ships, for tents, and by painters for oil-paintings, and also for clothing, etc.

Yard/Ell or Bolt

Canvas is found in the 1525/6 account at 26s. 8d. per C (presumably yards)

In the 1540s, it is valued at around 2d. per yard or at 13s. 4d. per bolt. The 1600/1 account records canvas by the ell, valued at around 4d. per ell and also has an entry for 'coarse canvas' at a value of 10s. per piece, based on custom payments, and also at 6s. 8d. per dozen yards.

**Cloth, Changeable Taffeta:** A silk taffeta in which the warp threads were of one colour and the weft threads were of another.<sup>103</sup>

Ell

Not listed in the rates book, it is valued for customs at 8s. per ell in 1576.

**Cloth, Check** (Text: chek): A rough woollen cloth, imported from Ireland.

Yard/C

There are 120 yards in a 'C' of Check Cloth.

**Cloth, Check Manchester:** A coarse woollen cloth from Manchester.

Dozen

Found in the 1600/1 account, rated by the dozen. It is valued at around 20d. per dozen based on custom payments.

**Cloth, Cottons:** A woollen cloth found by the goad, which was a measure of 1.5 yards.

C Goad

Valued in the later accounts at £3 6s. 8d. per C Goad, as in the 1582 rates book.

**Cloth, Damask:** Could be a rich silk or a rich linen fabric.<sup>104</sup>

Yard

Valued at 4s. per yard before the 1558 rate increase, 8s. per yard thereafter.

**Cloth, Dornick with wool** (dornix en Lani): A cloth originally manufactured at Doornick in Flanders.<sup>105</sup>

Yard

There are fifteen yards in a 'piece', valued at 10s. per piece in 1595, as in the 1582 rates book.

<sup>103</sup> URL: [www.vertetsable.com/research\\_bibliography.htm](http://www.vertetsable.com/research_bibliography.htm), accessed 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

<sup>104</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 21.

<sup>105</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 22.

**Cloth, Dowlas or Lockram:** A coarse linen, used for cloak bags and cases as well as for neckwear and clothing by the lower classes.<sup>106</sup>

Yard

Valued at 33s. 4d. per piece, which according to the 1582 rates book contains 100 elles.<sup>107</sup>

**Cloth, Dunster Cotton:** Not listed in rates book, presumably a woollen cloth.

Piece

Not listed in the rates book, presumably a woollen cloth. Valued at 20s. per piece for custom purposes. Size of piece unknown.

**Cloth, Flannel** (Text: flanen): An open woollen stuff, of various degrees of fineness, usually without a nap. (OED)

Yard, ell

Found at 6d. per yard. In the 1540s. It is listed in the 1582 rates book at 8d. per yard and it is found at this value in the 1594-5 account. The 1600-01 account has flannel at 5s. per dozen ells and at 3s. 4d. per dozen yards.

**Cloth, Frieze:** A kind of coarse woollen cloth, with a nap, usually on one side only.

**Cloth, Frieze *Bristol***

Piece

Valued at 13s. 4d. per piece in 1550. It is listed at both 20s. and 40s. per piece in 1564, after the rates increase, probably denoting single and double friezes.

**Cloth, Frieze *Irish*.**

C yard

This is valued at 4d. per yard or 40s. per C (120) yards. This value doesn't change with the new rates after 1558.

**Cloth, Fustian:** A cloth made of cotton and flax.

Piece

Found at 15s. per piece in the 1582 rates book, an increase of 1s. per piece from the earlier accounts.

**Cloth, Fustian Holmes:** A fustian made at Ulm in Germany.

Piece

<sup>106</sup> URL: [www.vertetsable.com/research\\_bibliography.htm](http://www.vertetsable.com/research_bibliography.htm), accessed 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

<sup>107</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 23.

A fustian made at Ulm in Germany. Valued at 13s. 4d. per piece and occurring only in the later accounts. Not listed in the 1582 rates book.

**Cloth, Fustian Irish**

Piece

A cloth made of cotton and flax. Only listed in 1594 and then valued at 13s. 4d. per piece, size unknown.

**Cloth, Fustian Jeane**

Piece

A kind of fustian from Genoa, Italy. A piece contains thirty yards and is valued at 13s. 4d. This only occurs in the later accounts.

**Cloth, Fustian Milan:** A kind of fustian from Milan, Italy.

This is valued at 20s. per piece in 1595. It is listed at this value in the rates book, but the size of the pieces are unknown.

**Cloth, Fustian, Osborne: Unknown origin.**

Piece

Found in the later accounts, valued at 13s. 4d., in line with the 1582 rates book.

**Cloth, Grosgrain Coarse** (Text: grograine): A coarse fabric of silk, of mohair and wool, or of these mixed with silk; often stiffened with gum. (OED)

Piece

Found in the 1600-01 account, valued at £2 6s. 8d per piece.

**Cloth, Hamborough & Portingale:** Probably Hamburg and Portuguese cloths.

It could also refer to the 'Hasbrough' cloth listed at 40s. per C (100 ells) in the 1582 rates book, although this one is slightly more expensive at 6d. per ell in the 1595 account. There is also a 'narrow Hamborough linen' listed in 1595 at £25 for M ell.

**Cloth, Hair** (Text: here): 'Cloth or fabric made of hair, used for various purposes such as tents, towels, shirts of penitents and ascetics; also in drying malt, hops, or the like. (OED)

Yard

Valued at 8d. per yard in 1576.

**Cloth, Holland:** A linen from the province of Holland.

Ell

Valued at 3.33d. per ell , rising to 13.33d. in later accounts, or 24s. per piece. There are approximately 22 ells in a piece.

**Cloth, *Lemagois*:** Unidentified cloth.

Yard

Valued at 40s. per C (120 yards)

**Cloth, Linen *Irish***

Yard/C

In the earlier accounts this is valued at 1d. per yard or 10s. per C (120 yards). After 1558 this increases to 26s. 8d. per C.

**Cloth, Lining, Narrow**

Piece

Valued at 4s. 2d. per piece in the 1540s.

**Cloth, Lining, Russet**

Piece/yard

Valued at 3d. per yard in the 1540s.

**Cloth, Lining, Yellow**

Piece/yard

Valued at 13s. 4d. per piece or C. and at 3d. per yard in the 1540s.

**Cloth, Mantle Frieze:** Presumably the frieze cloth used to make mantles.

Yard

This was imported from Ireland. It is listed by the 'C', which is 120 yards and valued at 40s. per C in 1551.

**Cloth, Mockado:** A mixed fabric of wool and silk, in imitation of velvet, from Flanders.<sup>108</sup>

Piece

Valued at 13s. 4d. per piece.

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<sup>108</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 41.

**Cloth, Molton:** OED: A kind of coarse, heavily fulled cloth with the warp of hemp and the weft of poor quality carding wool.

Piece

Found in the 1540s at 4s. 2d. per piece.

**Cloth, Motley:** A woollen cloth.

Piece

It is found in the 1540s accounts at £1 per piece and at 4s. 2d. for a 'strait'

**Cloth, Ozenbridge:** A linen cloth of Osnabrück.

Ell/Yard

Valued at 26s. 8d. per C (100 ells) and at 20s. per C yards.

**Cloth, Paris:** This may be serge as the account also list 'serge, called Paris cloth' but at a lower value.

Piece

Valued at £3 per piece in 1595, not listed in rates book. One in every ten cloths allowed to the merchant custom free. The same account also contains 'Serge, called Paris Cloth' at £2 per piece.

**Cloth, Poldavis: A coarse canvas cloth from Pouldavid in France.**

**Bolt/Piece**

The earlier accounts list it as pieces of Poldavis (1551) and as simply Poldavis (1546), both valued at 10s. The rates book for 1582 lists Poldavis the bolt at 20s., so it is possible that the pieces listed in the earlier accounts are in fact bolts.

**Cloth, Sack** (cloth for sacks): Coarse textile fabric used chiefly in the making of bags or sacks and for the wrapping up of bales.

Piece/Yard

This occurs in the 1600-01 account at 6s. 8d. a piece and at the same value for 40 yards, so therefore a piece is comprised of 40 yards. This is clearly not the sackcloth of silk or the white sackcloth of the rates book, both of which are significantly more expensive. Sackcloth occurs also in the 1575 account at 4s. 8d. per yard and in the 1595 account at 13s. 4d. per piece.

**Cloth, Sarcenet:** A fine silk material.<sup>109</sup>

Ell

Exported to Ireland at 4s. per ell and at 3s. 4d. per yard in 1563, this is probably either Florence or Bologna Sarcenet, both listed at 3s. 4d. per ell in the 1582 rates book. There is a 'coarse sarcenet' listed in 1576 at 5s. per ell, which is not listed in the rates book, and there is also a type of unspecified sarcenet in the 1595 account at the more expensive value of 6s. 8d. per yard (may be an error for ell) as the rates book lists a 'Gold Sarcenet' at 6s. 8d. per ell.

**Cloth, Satin:** A silk fabric with a glossy surface on one side.

Yard

Found at 5s. per yard in the 1540s, this is presumably 'satin out of grain' as listed in the 1582 rates book at the higher value of 9s. per yard.

**Cloth, Saye:** A lightweight cloth usually made from worsted and woollen yarn.

Yard/Piece

Listed by the yard in the 1540s account at 1s. 5d. and later by the piece at 20s., as in the rates book. The size of the piece is unknown.

**Cloth, Serge:** A woollen fabric, which up until the 16<sup>th</sup> century was chiefly used as material for hangings, bed-covers, etc. After this it is often referred to as worn by the poorer classes (both men and women), probably due to its durability rather than of its price, which was never especially low. (OED)

Piece

Serge cloth or 'Sarge called Paris Cloth' occurs in the 1594-5 account, valued at 40s. per piece, with 1 piece in every 10 allowed to the merchanyt custom free.

**Cloth, Soultwich:** This is a linen cloth, probably from Salzwedel in Germany.<sup>110</sup>

Piece

It is found in the 1600-01 account, where 10 pieces pay 3s. custom and so are valued at £3. The 1582 rates book lists Soultwich cloth at 40s. per C ell, containing vi.xx.

**Cloth, Stolorn:** Unidentified Cloth.

Piece

Not listed in 1582 rates book, valued at 10s. 4d. per piece in the 1540s.

<sup>109</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 51.

<sup>110</sup> Willan, *Tudor Book of Rates*, p. 56.

**Cloth Taffeta:** According to the OED, taffeta is ‘a name applied at different times to different fabrics. In early times apparently a plain-wove glossy silk, in more recent times, a light thin silk or union stuff of decided brightness or lustre’.

Yard

This is valued at 6s. 8d. per yard in line with the 1582 rates book.

### **Cloth, Taffata Broad**

Ell

A smooth, fine, shiny silk. Valued at 8s. 4d. per ell in the 1594-5 account. This is not listed in the 1582 rates book, but there is a listing for narrow Spanish Taffata at 4s. per yard, so perhaps this is just a wider sized piece.

**Cloth, Taffeta Levant:** The term ‘Levant’ signifies that the cloth originated in the eastern part of the Mediterranean.

Ell

Valued at 8s. 4d. per ell in the 1594-5 account. This is not listed in the 1582 rates book, but there is a listing for narrow Spanish Taffata at 4s. per yard, so perhaps this is just a wider sized piece.

**Cloth, Taffeta Towers:** Probably from Tours in France.

Ell

Willan suggests that this is Tours in France. It is listed in the 1582 rates book at 3s. 4d. per yard. It occurs in the 1600-01 account by the ell.

**Cloth, Tissue:** A rich kind of cloth, often interwoven with gold or silver. (OED)

Piece

Found in the 1540s, valued at £2 per piece. The 1582 rates book lists tissue cloth at £3 6s. 8d. per yard.

**Cloth, Velvet** (Text: velure): Textile fabric of silk having a short, dense, and smooth piled surface. (OED)

Yard

The value of velvet and velure varies in the accounts. It is found at 7s. 6d. and 10s. in the 1540s accounts, and at the higher value of 15s. per yard in the 1576 account in line with the rates book. It is also found in the 1600-01 account at approximately 26s. 8d. per piece.

**Cloth, Wadmal** (Text: wodnall, wodmal): A coarse woollen material used principally for covering horse-collars, and other rough purposes; for petticoats, mittens, etc. (OED)



## Piece

Found in the earlier accounts at 15s. per piece. It is listed in the 1582 rates book at 20s. per piece and is found at this value in the later accounts.

**Cloth, Worsted:** A woollen fabric made from well-twisted yarn spun of long-staple wool combed to lay the fibres parallel. (OED)

## Ell

Valued at 2s. per ell in the 1540s.